

Hafa Adai!

Mendiola testifies at JGO hearing. **PAGE 2**

NASA seeks student tech ideas for suborbital launch. **PAGE 11**

\$1

# Saipan Tribune

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**THURSDAY** AUGUST 26, 2021

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## TWILIGHT TIME

Two rowing canoes glide across this stretch of the Saipan lagoon after sunset from the beach north of The Shack restaurant.

MARK FARMER

## Cui is found in contempt again

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
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REPORTER



Cui

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has found former Imperial Pacific International Holdings Ltd. chair Cui Li Jie in contempt of court again in the case filed

» **Former IPI chair faces daily \$1,000 daily penalty, possible imprisonment**

by seven former construction workers and was mandated to take certain actions to purge herself of contempt. Failing that, she faces not just a possible penalty of \$1,000 per day but even possible imprisonment.

See CUI on **Page 4**

Chalan Laulau road closure looms if. . .

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
[kimberly\\_esmores@saipantribune.com](mailto:kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

After waiting for more 17 years to be paid, the landowner of the road leading to the B&R Auto Repair Shop at the corner of Beach Road in Chalan Laulau finally ran out of patience last Tuesday and briefly closed the road to traffic.

See CLOSURE on **Page 4**

## Heated arguments mark JGO hearing

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
[ferdie\\_delatorre@saipantribune.com](mailto:ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

Police Lt. Emery Kaipat of the Department of Public Safety's Boating Safety appeared yesterday before the House of Representatives Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee, but his testimony touched not so much on the subject of the investigation but his constitutional right to tes-

tify in Carolinian and have the questions to him translated in Carolinian as well.

Another point of argument arose when Kaipat's counsel, Anthony Aguon, pointed out an error in the translation, prompting JGO chair Rep. Celine R. Babauta (D-Saipan) to order a recess at 3:17pm and instruct Kaipat to return for the hearing tomorrow, Friday,

See HEATED on **Page 4**



Lawyer Anthony Aguon, left, confers with his client, Police Lt. Henry Kaipat of the Department of Public Safety's Boating Safety, during one of the questions asked yesterday at the hearing before the House of Representatives Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

## AT A GLANCE

As of 7:07pm, Aug. 25, 2021

### VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population **77%**  
Fully Vaccinated:

Days since last community transmission **155**

| Pfizer/BioNTech   |        |
|-------------------|--------|
| Initiated:        | 29,250 |
| Fully Vaccinated: | 27,718 |
| Moderna           |        |
| Initiated:        | 4,704  |
| Fully Vaccinated: | 4,196  |
| Janssen           |        |
| Fully vaccinated: | 723    |

| GUAM      | OLD   | NEW | TOTAL |
|-----------|-------|-----|-------|
| Positive  | 9612  | 147 | 9,759 |
| Recovered | 8,661 | 14  | 8,675 |
| Active    | 792   | 147 | 939   |
| Deaths    | 145   | 0   | 145   |

| SAIPAN                         | OLD | NEW | TOTAL |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----|-------|
| Positive                       | 229 | 0   | 229   |
| Traced via Travel Screening    | 192 | 0   | 192   |
| Traced via Community Screening | 37  | 0   | 37    |
| Deaths                         | 2   | 0   | 2     |

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., <https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/>

## COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

### LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

## CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



## INSIDE



### LOCAL

Atkins Kroll Saipan donates \$2,500 to the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance.

PAGE 6



### NATION

U.S. President Joe Biden is sticking to his Aug. 31 deadline for evacuations in Afghanistan.

PAGE 12



### WORLD

After four wars, the toll mounts on a Gaza neighborhood that's been wrecked again and again.

PAGE 13



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## Local

## Mendiola testifies at JGO hearing

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Police Sgt. Adrian T. Mendiola of the Department of Public Safety's Boating Safety appeared before the Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee of the House of Representatives last Tuesday as it continues its investigation into Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' expenditures of public funds

and travels.

Mendiola, a Boating Safety shift supervisor and a boat captain, was sometimes detailed to accompany Torres during boat trips. He stated that his priority on these trips was to ensure the safety of people aboard these boats. At one point, Mendiola ap-



Sablan

peared to take exception to the line of questioning when he was asked about cargo.

"You guys are asking me about cargo. I'm telling you time and time again, I don't recall what the cargo is. That's the least of my worry on that boat. I'm there to provide safety for the

people in there," he said.

He said he is not looking at cargoes as his main focus is the headcount of the vessel.

Mendiola appeared before the committee with his counsel, Anthony Aguon, who was hired by DPS to represent DPS personnel who've been summoned by JGO to testify.

In one instance, Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan) cited travel documents that

Mendiola had submitted to the JGO about a trip in June 2018 to Guam. She said the document showed a memo from DPS Commissioner to the Finance secretary dated June 13, 2018. Sablan said the purpose that DPS Commissioner Robert Guerrero stated is to escort Torres and first lady Diann Torres to Guam by boat. She said the memo goes on to mention that repairs were needed for the boat as well.

Mendiola said he did not prepare the travel documents and does not know who from DPS prepared the documents.

Sablan noted that the actual travel authorization shows that Torres was the authorizing officer and Guerrero was the requester. Sablan said the document shows that Guerrero had indicated that the purpose was to escort Torres, and that somebody crossed out that purpose at some point. Mendiola said he does not know who crossed out the purpose and initialed it.

As to the questions about Torres' fishing trips to the Northern Islands, Mendiola said sometimes the governor would use his private boat and sometimes he would be on a Boating Safety vessel.

In response to Sablan's questions, Mendiola said he recalled that in those trips, Torres was with his brothers and that he does not recall the first lady joining in fishing trips.

Mendiola said he was only following orders from DPS officials and that he can't

answer why DPS officers would escort the governor during those fishing trips.

When interrogated about a trip to the Northern Islands by social media personality Robert Arrington of the YouTube show Deer Meat for Dinner in June to July 2020, Mendiola affirmed that he was part of that expedition to the Northern Islands. He said he saw Torres and the first lady on that trip and other members of the Torres' family.

Mendiola said his superior instructed him to go on that trip and that he did not receive any per diem or stipend for it. He said he also did not receive any reimbursements for any expenses on that trip.

Mendiola said he does not recall exactly what cargo was transported on that trip.

At the start of the JGO hearing last June, Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan) disclosed that they got a copy of a non-disclosure agreement between the Office of the Governor and DPS as first party, and all Customs, Airport, DPS officers that were at one point assigned as personal security detail as the second party. Propst described the NDA as disgusting and deplorable.

When Rep. Vicente Camacho's (D-Saipan) asked Mendiola about the matter, he said nobody asked him to sign a non-disclosure agreement.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the House chamber of 4:20pm Tuesday, Mendiola was still testifying.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality  
Division of Coastal Resources Management  
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Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315  
www.dcrmm.gov.mp

Eli D. Cabrera  
Administrator

Janice E. Castro  
Director, DCRM

## PUBLIC NOTICE

## COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT BOARD TRAINING

In conformity with the Open Government Act, this is to give notice that the CRM Agency Board will partake in an annual board training on August 31, 2021 from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Garapan, Saipan. Since the CRM Board training will comprise of all the voting members, the CRM Board will not be voting on official matters.

The purpose of this training is to build capacities on decision-making processes involving major developments and other topics that are critical to their roles as a CRM Board member, including the body's legal responsibility to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) government and the community's right to a clean and healthful environment.

Please contact the Division of Coastal Resources Management at 664-8300 or by email at [permitting@dcrmm.gov.mp](mailto:permitting@dcrmm.gov.mp) if you have any questions.

/s/ JANICE E. CASTRO  
Director  
Division of Coastal Resources Management

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# PSS co-op program downscaled

By JOSHUA SANTOS  
joshua\_santos@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The COVID-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc not only on regular classes but also the Cooperative Education Program of the Public School System, according to Brandon Nicholas, who is the coordinator of the program.

Nicholas, who was last Tuesday's guest speaker at the Rotary Club of Saipan's meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan Ballroom, said that maintaining student engagement with the program has been a challenge since the height of the pandemic last year and this year.

This is because many pre-pandemic features of the program—such as field trips, a job fair exclusive to the students, and the job trainings themselves—had to be downscaled.

However, despite the challenges, Nicholas said that 150 students from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota participated in Cooperative Training last year.

As PSS has opted to go with blended learning for its high schools to begin the 2021-2022 school year, Nicholas said he and a team has been working on further developing the program's online curriculum and simulations. While there may not be a job fair for the students in the current semester, if the situation improves Nicholas said there might be a job fair for the next program cycle next semester.

The Cooperative Education Program, an elective class available in all of the CNMI's high schools, points students toward careers they would be interested in pursuing, preparing the future generation of workers, and in the long-term addressing the CNMI's current labor shortage within the private sector.

The program runs for the

duration of a PSS semester, and is fully federally funded through a grant that is made available by the U.S. Depart-

ment of Education. The program comprises two parts: "Cooperative Education," and "Cooperative Training."

Cooperative Education is when students attend classes focused on job placement techniques, career exploration,

financial literacy, and résumé drafting and personal development.

The Cooperative Train-

ing portion of the program requires students to work for 60 hours per month for three months.



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**\$22,995** | STK: 18P335  
14,064 MILES  
KBB: \$23,338



1993 MAZDA **RX-7** TURBO

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**\$35,995** | STK: 93C007  
132,406 MILES

2012 KIA **SEDONA** LX

• 49,201 MILES  
• STK: 20M197E  
• KBB: \$12,045

SALE PRICE  
**\$11,995**



2018 KIA **FORTE** HATCHBACK

• 10,564 MILES  
• STK: 18HS916  
• KBB: \$15,477

SALE PRICE  
**\$14,995**



2016 MAZDA **MAZDA6** SPORT

• 55,153 MILES  
• STK: 16R269  
• KBB: \$14,450

SALE PRICE  
**\$14,995**



2016 HYUNDAI **VELOSTER**

• 39,217 MILES  
• STK: 20H068A  
• KBB: \$16,830

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**\$16,995**



2018 MAZDA **MAZDA3**

• 10,324 MILES  
• STK: 18HS904  
• KBB: \$19,904

SALE PRICE  
**\$18,995**



2018 KIA **OPTIMA** LX

• 10,367 MILES  
• STK: 18HS925C  
• KBB: \$19,930

SALE PRICE  
**\$18,995**



2018 MAZDA **MAZDA3** SPORT

• 12,150 MILES  
• STK: 18HS906  
• KBB: \$19,304

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**\$18,995**



2015 TOYOTA **CAMRY** LE

• 44,202 MILES  
• STK: 15P325  
• KBB: \$20,295

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**\$19,995**



2018 KIA **SPORTAGE** LX

• 16,133 MILES  
• STK: 20D027E  
• KBB: \$21,271

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2018 MAZDA **MAZDA3** SPORT

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• STK: 20D013A  
• KBB: \$17,801

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# 15-year-old wins \$3,000; Road to 80 warns of scammers

By JOSHUA SANTOS

joshua\_santos@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A 15-year-old Saipan Southern High School sophomore was last Friday's lucky winner of \$3,000, courtesy of the vaccination campaign Road to 80.

During a Facebook livestream yesterday, Road to 80 program manager and raffle host Brad Ruzala personally handed the cash prize to Ericson

Faustino, who was at Chalan Kanoa Beach Hotel's Bistro Marianas with his family.

When asked what he will do with the \$3,000, Faustino said he plans to save some and probably spend some on new clothes and shoes. When asked for some remarks, Faustino's father spoke of the importance of getting vaccinated, not just for the safety of his family but for the sake of the

community as a whole. "We need to be safe for everyone, for every family every single day. That's what we need right now," he said.

Next up for Road to 80 will be raffles this Friday and Saturday, Aug. 27 and 28. On Friday, one winner of \$4,000 and one winner of a \$1,000 bonus prize courtesy of Bank of Guam will be selected. On Saturday at the Taste of the Marianas main stage at 8pm, there

will be nine raffles: three \$2,500 raffles exclusive to the vaccinated populations of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, and six CNMI-wide raffles for \$5,000; \$15,000; a 17-foot Yamaha boat; a 2020 Nissan Rogue Sport; and two bonus raffles for \$2,500 and \$5,000.

To qualify for Road to 80's raffles, a person must be a CNMI resident and must have already received their first dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech or Moderna vaccine or their single dose of the Johnson & Johnson or Janssen vaccine.

In related news, Road to 80 on

its Facebook page yesterday said that it will never ask people for personal information over the phone, as every individual who has received a COVID-19 vaccine in the CNMI is already registered for the raffles through information that was provided to [vaccinatecnmi.com](http://vaccinatecnmi.com). Road to 80 asks the community not to give personal information to scammers who call and ask for information to help people "register" for the raffles, and asks to be notified of scammers' phone numbers.

## Price gouging reports due to stimulus cards being checked

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Finance Secretary David DLG. Atalig said Friday that they are looking into reports of price gouging, or that some stores have increased their prices because of the distribution of CNMI stimulus cards.

When asked about alleged price

gouging during a radio press briefing, Atalig said they've received some inquiries or emails about the issue and that they are asking these complainants to be specific on who is doing that.

He said they are going to work with the Office of the Attorney General to

ensure that there is no price gouging, there are no hidden fees, and there are no additional charges when using a CNMI stimulus card.

"If you're experiencing price gouging, email us at [stimulus@dof.gov](mailto:stimulus@dof.gov). mp and give us detailed information," said Atalig,



Atalig

adding that the complainants' privacy will be protected.

Atalig said they will work with the OAG's Consumer Protection to ensure that it does not happen and should not be valid in the case of additional charges. "We will do our best to ensure that we get you your fair share of the money should that be the case," he said.

Unlike in disasters when the government puts in place a price freeze, this unique situation means

the Department of Finance will leave it to the OAG to determine if there is any violation of the law, Atalig said, or if is the agency that can take the vendor or merchant to court.

Atalig said they can flag or suspend these vendors' license if they are doing anything illegal. "We can work with the Department of Commerce as well as our department's Revenue and Taxation and our enforcement team," he added.

## CUI

From Page 1

During a court hearing yesterday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona Manglona found Cui in contempt for "clearly and unambiguously" violating the court's preservation order by continuously deleting WeChat messages despite previous court orders not to, and for failing to inform the court of a personal laptop, a Samsung phone she previously owned, and an email address she used.

"Specifically, the court found that Cui blatantly disregarded the court's order by continuously deleting her WeChat messages even though the court's preservation order required that she preserve all ESI data," Manglona said.

"Cui failed to identify that she had a personal computer, previously owned a Samsung phone between March 26, 2020 and March 31, 2021, and had an email address that she used—all in clear disregard of the court's order," Manglona added.

In order to purge herself of contempt, Manglona ordered Cui to provide her computer for a forensic copy to be made, file an amended sworn statement within five days describing

all ESI data, to provide proof of purchase for her rose gold iPhone that was recently brought to the court's attention, and to immediately provide all remaining SIM cards and to file a sworn statement from the vendor affirming the imaging of all devices are completed and preserved and affirming the WeChat account data was preserved within two weeks following the hearing.

Manglona warned Cui that she faces daily sanctions and even possible imprisonment if she continues her pattern of noncompliance with court orders.

"Failure to comply with the court's order by these deadlines will result in sanctions of \$1,000 per day to be paid to this court until the court's order is fully complied with. Continued failure may result in further sanctions, including imprisonment," she said.

In addition, the court granted the plaintiffs' request for Cui to pay attorney's fees and cost.

Manglona set a status conference on the matter for Oct. 4 at 8:30am. However, the hearing will be vacated if the court's order is complied with.

Cui used to chair Imperial Pacific International Holdings Ltd., the parent company of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC that is

building the casino resort in Garapan.

According to court documents, Manglona first found Cui in contempt on Feb. 23 this year for disobeying the court's discovery orders.

The plaintiffs had made an oral request that Cui preserve the data on her mobile phone. On March 31, the court granted the plaintiffs' motion and issued an amended order directing Cui to identify and preserve all data she had used or created since March 26, 2020.

The seven plaintiffs in the lawsuit—Tianming Wang, Dong Han, Yongjun Meng, Liangcai Sun, Youli Wang, Qingchun Xu, and Duxin Yan—initially filed a complaint against Gold Mantis Construction Decoration (CNMI) in December 2018. They later amended their complaint in March 2019 to include MCC International Saipan Ltd. Co. and IPI as defendants. The plaintiffs also added an allegation of forced labor under the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act.

Representing Cui yesterday were lawyers David Lujan and Joey San Nicolas, while Michael Dotts was present for Imperial Pacific International. Meanwhile, Aaron Halegua and Bruce Berline were present to represent the plaintiffs.

## CLOSURE

From Page 1

After talking with the Department of Public Lands and the Office of the Attorney General last Tuesday, Cecilia Teregeyo Lisua said she is giving the government until the end of this week to gather the funds to pay the land compensation that her family is owed.

If no payments toward the land compensation is made by Monday, said she will pour gravel on the road, completely blocking it off until payments are made.

She said they've been working on the land compensation with DPL for 14 years now. The family is expecting over \$100,000 in land compensation for the property.

Lisua said that after speaking with

a DPL case worker last Tuesday, she was told that they only need a map of the property to process the land compensation claim.

Lisua said that she blocked the road because her family had not been compensated and she has been working on the land compensation with DPL since 2004 up to 2018 when she was hospitalized.

She said her family has given the government years to pay the family but to date, there has been no action and she is tired.

Spotted last Tuesday at the site were some police officers and House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) who said he was only there to check as the area is part of Precinct 3 that he represents.

When later asked about the matter, Villagomez said he responded to the area after it was brought to

his attention and talked to the family to get a little background as to why they blocked the road going to B&R Auto Shop.

He said he believes it has something to do with land compensation as the family appears to have been waiting for a long time to get compensated.

The speaker said there are some documentation issues that they need to follow up on and a family member is handling the matter.

He said the police were there to just kind of pacify the situation to at least allow one lane to open for people to go in and out.

"I mean, it wasn't a bad situation. They already removed everything before I left," Villagomez said.

He said DPL representatives later arrived at the scene to talk to the family.

## HEATED

From Page 1

at 10:30am. The JGO is investigating Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' expenditures of public funds and travels.

At the start of the hearing in the morning, House counsel Joseph Taijeron argued that there's absolutely nothing in the CNMI Constitution that mandates that this proceeding be translated into any other language.

But if Babauta sees the need for a translation, they have that capability, Taijeron added. "If there's ever an English language proficiency issue, we will not hesitate to translate it into the language that he can understand," Taijeron said.

Taijeron said if Kaipat understands the question perfectly well, then they're not going to waste any time translating it into any other language simply for the sake of translation, when he has no reason to misunderstand the question.

The House counsel said it will only unduly delay the proceedings and that Babauta has the right to see fit—as long as Kaipat understands the question—not to translate the question into Carolinian and Chamorro when he already understands it.

"His manner of reply is totally absolutely up to him. We are not saying anything about his ability to speak," Taijeron said.

Aguon said he would have to disagree with that reading of the CNMI Supreme Court's ruling in *Deleon Guerrero* and *Jasper* cases. "This is not an issue of proficiency. This is an issue of what language to recognize. And the Constitution recognizes Chamorro, Carolinian, and English," Aguon said.

The lawyer said he is going to ask his client not to speak until it's translated to Carolinian as he had requested.

Taijeron said the chairwoman is going to instruct Kaipat to comply and if he fails to comply, he may be found in contempt.

Taijeron said if there's an English proficiency issue, they can always address it by having Kaipat say he doesn't understand the question.

Babauta told Aguon that they're not denying his client the constitutional right.

Aguon replied that she (Babauta) is denying Kaipat's constitutional right. "No! We are not! We're not forcing him to speak a language that he is not proficient," Babauta said.

Aguon said Kaipat just requested to speak in Carolinian. Babauta replied he can do so.

Aguon said they're asking Kaipat questions in English. Babauta said Kaipat can certainly respond in a language that he is comfortable with.

Aguon then called for a short recess, which Babauta granted.

During recess, Aguon asked if the committee is really going down this contempt line, to which Taijeron replied, "Yes."

Aguon said he fundamentally disagrees with Taijeron's position and so if that's the case, then "that's what it is."

Taijeron said they had numerous attorneys look at this issue and not just him. "And the only person saying that the right to speak is an issue is you and you alone," he said.

Taijeron reiterated that he and Aguon may disagree but Babauta can make the call. "You can't just disagree with the chairman. And you're the one who's going to call the shots?" Taijeron said.

Aguon said he is not going to expose his client to a potential constitutional violation. "That's why I'm here! That's my reason, to make sure that none of his constitutional right is violated. Either I have to listen to your interpretation of the law, or else I have to potentially violate his constitutional right," Aguon said.

Taijeron said that's the way it works.

"Then if that's the case, then I guess..." Aguon said, but Taijeron replied, "Don't do this!"

Taijeron told Kaipat that he does not want him to go to jail for contempt.

Aguon stressed that he is only protecting Kaipat's constitutional right.

The hearing resumed at 2pm. Kaipat was allowed to testify in Carolinian and have his testimony translated.





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# Atkins Kroll donates \$2,500 to Mariana Islands Nature Alliance

Atkins Kroll Saipan and the company's Community Matters program have donated \$2,500 to Mariana Islands Nature Alliance.

Led by Joel Lesh, AK Saipan vice president and general manager, Atkins Kroll Saipan employees turned over the check to MINA executive director Roberta Guerrero and Becky Furey in the Toyota showroom yesterday.

MINA's mission fosters community and science-

based conservation programs to enhance and sustain Micronesia's environments and cultures.

"MINA is an incredible community partner," said Lesh. "We are happy to support them as they dedicate their efforts to the conservation of the diverse natural resources on our beautiful island."

Community Matters is Atkins Kroll's community care program. Its purpose is to contribute value and support

where possible to non-profit organizations or endeavors in their charitable or community pursuit to help make the CNMI a better place to live, work, and play.

Atkins Kroll, an Inchcape company, represents Toyota, Lexus, BMW, Chevrolet, Toyota Rent a Car, and AC Delco automotive brands in Guam, the CNMI, and Micronesia. Atkins Kroll was established in 1914 and is Guam's oldest corporation. (PR)



Atkins Kroll Saipan donates \$1,000 to MINA through its "Community Matters" program. From left, AK sales associates Didi Woodruff and Kim Calage; Daniel Ogomuro, MINA; Roberta Guerrero, MINA executive director; Becky Furey, MINA; Liza Taylor, AK sales associate; Kevin Barnes, AK sales manager; and Kevin Ada, AK sales associate.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Restaurant and bar operator at Saipan Vegas frets over future of corporation



Photo shows some of the employees at the Rendezvous Restaurant and the Bamboo Bar inside Saipan Vegas.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DMCC Corp., the operator of the Rendezvous Restaurant and the Bamboo Bar at Saipan Vegas, is concerned that the doubling of license fees on e-gaming machines will have a dramatic impact on Saipan Vegas and will, in turn, negatively affect the restaurant and bar's operations.

Marvin Deocares, president of DMCC Corp., said, "We have been operating

the Rendezvous Restaurant and Bamboo Bar at Saipan Vegas for the last two-and-a-half years, including during the 2020 pandemic shutdown periods. Saipan Vegas has been a supportive landlord and has assisted us by forgiving some of our rent during the shutdown and by providing other support.

"If Saipan Vegas is forced to shut down due to the dou-

bling of their license fees, we will also have to shut down our operations. This will result in an additional 14 workers losing their jobs during this difficult time.

"We humbly ask the Saipan delegation to work with Saipan Vegas to come to compromise solution regarding the license fees-imposed e-gaming machines," he said in a statement yesterday. (PR)



### Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



## REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES CUC-RAESP-21-037

### A&E SERVICES FOR TINIAN WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT (WWTP) & ROTA WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT (WWTP) PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING REPORT & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Architectural and Engineering (A&E) firms for Preliminary Engineering Reports (PER) and Environmental Impact Assessment for Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTP) on Tinian and Rota. The services shall include preparation of the PER as per USDA RUS Bulletin 1780-2, an Environmental Assessment for submittal to the CNMI Coastal Resources Management (CRM) as a Major siting Permit Application.

*This project is funded by a grant from the United States Office of Insular Affairs, U.S. Department of Interior.*

Prospective Proposers for this project must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RAESP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one package set.

**One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Proposal and One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal in a separate envelope must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RAESP-21-037, A&E Services for Tinian Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) & Rota Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) - Preliminary Engineering Report & Environmental Impact Assessment", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 a.m., (ChST) on September 8, 2021. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.**

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Consultant's preparation of a proposal under the contract. The RAESP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the statement of qualifications under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Consultants are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAESP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 16, 2021** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email - [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with a copy to Larry Manacop, CUC Acting Chief Engineer at email [larry.manacop@cucgov.org](mailto:larry.manacop@cucgov.org) and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Technician Senior - via email [marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org](mailto:marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO  
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN  
Purchasing Administrator



### Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-21-016, Rev.1

### Supply and Commissioning of a 1.5 MW Trailer Mounted Diesel Power Generating Set with Soundproof Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3, Saipan, CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the Supply and Commissioning of a 1.5 Mega Watt Trailer Mounted Diesel Power Generating Set with Soundproof Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3 Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

**One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format or USB Drive, must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-21-016, Rev.1 Supply and Commissioning of a 1.5 MW Trailer Mounted Diesel Power Generating Set with Soundproof Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3, Saipan, CNMI" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than September 1, 2021 at 10:00 AM (ChST). Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.**

Offerors are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 24, 2021** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with a copy to CUC's Acting Water/Wastewater Manager, Yvonne C. Ogomuro via email address [yvonne.ogomuro@cucgov.org](mailto:yvonne.ogomuro@cucgov.org), CUC's Power Generation Manager, Richard Cano via email address [richard.cano@cucgov.org](mailto:richard.cano@cucgov.org) and Marcela Tenorio, CUC's Senior Administrative Technician via email address [marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org](mailto:marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO  
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN  
Purchasing Administrator



# Pacific Century Fellows take a closer look at Guam's key sectors

The Pacific Century Fellows-Marianas Chapter's Class of 2021 held the fourth part of its leadership series meeting in the CNMI's neighboring island last month, giving them insights to key sectors in Guam.

The cohort learned more about Guam's education, tourism, business, and utility sectors as the 12 Fellows and officials of PCF-Marianas Chapter visited the Guam Community College, Guam Visitors Bureau, Guam Chamber of Commerce, and the Guam Power Authority.

Fellow Nadine Deleon Guerrero said the discussions with GPA assistant general manager of operations Melinda Mafnas and GM for administration Tricee Limtiaco were inspiring as the agency provides training and professional development opportunities to their staff and follow best practices to better serve Guam residents.

"The Guam Power Authority is a stellar example of a well-oiled machine, both literally and figuratively. What's most impressive is that majority of those in senior positions are local homegrown residents who have gained both the experience and knowledge through appropriate education



**CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**  
Members of the Pacific Century Fellows-Marianas Chapter's Class of 2021 pose with Guam Power Authority assistant general manager for administration Tricee Limtiaco, fourth left, and assistant general manager for operations Melinda Mafnas, center, after their visit at the agency's corporate office in Dededo last month during the cohort's fourth leadership meeting.

whether by academics or trade and/or apprenticeship programs," Deleon Guerrero said.

Billy Grow, another PCF Fellow, noted that through technological advances, improved facilities, and well-trained personnel, GPA managed to lower costs of utilities and increase their revenue at the same time.

As for the tourism sector, Grow said that like the CNMI, Guam, through the leadership

of GVB president and chief executive officer Carl Gutierrez, is finding creative ways to revive the tourism industry safely. He mentioned Guam's Air V&V (Air Vaccination and Vacation) campaign that offers visitors vaccinations in the comfort of their hotel room.

Before meeting with Gutierrez, Grow and company stopped at the Guam Community College and were impressed with how the institu-

tion has consistently supported and developed the education of the island's workforce through its various programs and aligned curriculum.

The cohort then met with Cannabis Control Board representative Adrian Cruz and Guam Sen. Clynt Ridgell, who authored the Guam Cannabis Industry Act of 2019. The Fellows learned that Ridgell used the CNMI's Taulumwaar Sensible Can-

nabis Act of 2018 as one of his references when he introduced the bill that led to the legalization of recreational pot. Cruz told the visiting group that the CCB also took its cue from the CNMI as far as formulation of the rules and regulations on marijuana trading is concerned.

The Fellows said that learning the similarities and differences in the operations of key sectors and new industries

in the CNMI and Guam and getting insights from experts are very useful as the cohort's members are somehow involved in these areas or may consider a career in these fields in the future.

The Class 2021's trip to Guam last July 28 and 29 also included a visit at the Joint Region Marianas, Navy Base-Windshield, Marine Corps Base, Office of the Governor, and the 36th Guam Legislature. The cohorts had an open discussion with then-acting governor Joshua Tenorio, 36th Guam Legislature Speaker Therese Terlaje and senators Amanda Shelton, Sabina Perez, and Christopher Duenas. First Hawaiian Bank executives, led by senior vice president and Guam-CNMI region manager Ed Untalan, hosted a dinner for the visiting group, while the Fellows had a mixer night with the Guam Young Professionals.

The PCF-Marianas Chapter would like to thank the government and private agencies and their representatives for their accommodation and valuable input during the leadership meeting. Up next for the Class of 2021 is Leadership Series Five, which will be held today and will focus on the CNMI government. **(PR)**



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## PUBLIC NOTICE for Hospital Dump Site

### Public Information Meeting and Extension of the Public Comment Period

**WHO:** For the local community and public. Presented by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE)

**WHAT:** A public meeting to provide an overview of the results of the investigation for the Project named 'Hospital Dump' a Formerly Used Defense (FUDS) site. Based on the results of the investigations, the Government has reviewed the data with Federal, State and local Agencies, and selected the proposed 'No Action' decision.

The proposed 'No Action' decision is based on the conclusions, that the metals found in site soils, (Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)-8 metals) do not pose unacceptable risks to human health or the environment. Additionally, Total Petroleum Hydrocarbon (TPH) concentrations in soil above applicable screening levels were successfully removed from the Hospital Dump FUDS site. If after consideration of public comments, this proposed 'No Action' decision is ultimately selected, no further additional investigation, remediation or removal will be performed and USACE will pursue project closeout.

**WHEN:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 at 5 p.m.

**WHERE:** 22nd Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building, P.O. Box 500586, Saipan, MP 96950

**WHY:** To present to the public the Proposed Plan to facilitate public involvement in the decision-making process for the Hospital Dump Site (FUDS Project No. H09CN012001), located at Talofofo, Saipan.

**HOW:** Attend the meeting. To ensure the community's concerns are addressed, the public comment period has been extended from July 20, 2021 to September 30, 2021. In addition, this meeting is being held for the community's attendance. The Proposed Plan and Remedial Investigation Report are available for public review in the Administrative Record file at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library Insatto Street, Susupe, Saipan. During this time, the public is encouraged to submit any written comments regarding the project to:

**Project Point of Contact:**

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Honolulu District  
Programs and Project Management Division, Environmental Branch  
ATTN: Lori Wong (PM-HDS)  
Building 230 / CEPOH-PP-E  
Fort Shafter, HI 96858-5440  
Fax 808-835-4129  
E-mail: [FUDS-POH@usace.army.mil](mailto:FUDS-POH@usace.army.mil)

# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

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### EDITORIAL

## Pfizer approval brings call for government mandates

**T**he Food and Drug Administration's full approval of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine for people 16 and older should spur federal, state and local governments to impose widespread vaccine mandates.

Health officials expect that full approval of the Moderna vaccine, which relies on similar technology, will come within the next few weeks.

All workers at government, hospitals, schools and long-term care facilities should be required to be vaccinated. So should students, faculty and staff at public colleges and universities. And that's just for starters. Bay Area counties and cities should follow New York City's lead and mandate proof of vaccination for access to most indoor activities, including dining, gyms and entertainment shows. Counties and cities throughout California should do the same.

For weeks we have watched as coronavirus cases rise at an alarming rate among those who are not vaccinated, largely because of a lack of political will and personal responsibility. During the spring it appeared that the virus was rapidly declining. But the United States is now averaging about 150,000 new COVID-19 cases and 1,000 deaths a day. More than 90,000 adults are hospitalized, and 95% of those entering the hospital are unvaccinated.

Mandates are lawful and ethical. They are a game-changer that provide the best means available to slow the spread of the Delta variant and end the deadly pandemic. They offer a needed incentive to help persuade the unvaccinated to get their shots. An estimated 25% of U.S. adults still have not received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. Roughly half of Californians have been fully vaccinated. A poll conducted by the Kaiser Family Foundation revealed that three in 10 unvaccinated adults say they'd be more likely to get vaccinated if the vaccines received full approval from the FDA.

The FDA went to great lengths in its review for full approval. The agency studied 340,000 pages of data about the vaccine's safety and efficacy. It also conducted repeated inspections of manufacturing plants.

Scientists analyzed clinical trial data from about 20,000 vaccine and 20,000 placebo recipients. The conclusion: The vaccine was 91% effective in preventing COVID-19 disease. The FDA said Monday that more than half of the clinical trial participants were followed for safety outcomes for at least four months after the second dose. Overall, approximately 12,000 recipients have been followed for at least six months.

Increasing the percentage of vaccinated people is an important step. But closer to home, it remains crucial that we follow Bay Area health officials requirement of indoor mask mandates, regardless of vaccination status, for Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Mateo, San Francisco, Santa Clara and Sonoma counties.

Scientists have known for months that the quickest way to beat COVID-19 was by vaccinating a high percentage of the population and taking safety precautions to guard against needless spread of the virus. Monday's approval by the FDA offers federal, state and local governments the justification needed to impose widespread vaccination mandates.

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## First COVID immobilized us. Now governments are

**O**ne of my great concerns about the pandemic was that it would hinder the global mobility of people and labor, perhaps permanently. Unfortunately, my worst fears are being realized: As COVID-19 mutates, it is affecting not only tourism and business travel but also migration more generally.

Consider that after the end of the Vietnam War, the U.S. took in more than 1 million Vietnamese migrants over a 20-year period. After the Soviet Union withdrew its troops in Afghanistan, the U.S. also took in many Afghan refugees, and as with the Vietnamese migrants the results were very positive.

Fast forward to the present day: The U.S. is not on track to take in many Afghan refugees at all. The political climate on immigration has turned much more negative, but there is also what I call "the COVID talking point." If a critic of refugee resettlement wants to freeze a risk-averse but otherwise sympathetic bureaucracy, he need only ask one simple question: "But how many of them are vaccinated?"

I am struck also by the recent decisions of Croatia and Austria to place "expiration dates" on the vaccinations of visiting tourists. Until this decision, it sufficed to be vaccinated to visit either country, though there were possible other restrictions. Now, if it is 270 days since your last vaccine dose, your vaccinated status will no longer get you into the country.

This is especially discouraging because Croatia had been one of the most open countries to visitors. It also heralds a broader policy of continually shifting standards and uncertainty about travel restrictions. It just got more difficult to organize a group trip to Croatia for the spring of 2022, because who knows what the entry standards will look like by then.

In the U.S., President Joe Biden's administration is now pushing third booster shots for people who already have been vaccinated. That might be a good idea, but it too creates additional uncertainty for travel and migration—and for social interaction more broadly. If three doses are so important, should people be allowed to travel (or for that matter interact indoors) with only two doses? The bar is raised yet again.

Of course the issues do not end with the third dose. If the efficacy of the second dose declines significantly in less than a year, might the same happen with the third dose? How long before four doses are necessary, or maybe five? Or what if yet another significant COVID-19 variant comes along, and only some people have a booster dose against that strain? What then counts as being "sufficiently vaccinated?"

**By TYLER COWEN**  
Bloomberg Opinion

*Tyler Cowen is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He is a professor of economics at George Mason University and writes for the blog Marginal Revolution. His books include Big Business: A Love Letter to an American Anti-Hero.*



Many Americans seem to be keen to get their third dose, but by the nature of counting that number is fewer than the number willing to get two doses. Furthermore, many people might just tire of the stress of dealing with an ongoing stream of obligatory booster shots and stop at one or two.

The sad reality is that the "two-dose standard" may not last very long, whether abroad or domestically (the same is true of the even weaker one-dose standard with Johnson & Johnson and AstraZeneca). Vaccine mandates will become harder to define and enforce, will be less transparent, and will probably be less popular.

If you tell people that three doses are needed for safety, but two doses are enough to get you into a concert or government building, how are they supposed to sort out the mixed messages? It is not obvious that enough people will get the third dose in a timely manner to make that a workable standard for vaccine passports.

Add to that the problems with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, which originally the government urged people to get. Now those people are not being given comparable chances to obtain boosters—in fact, they are not yet being given specific guidance at all. Are they orphaned out of any new vaccine passport system, or will (supposedly dangerous?) exceptions be made for them? Or do they just have to start all over?

The big international winner from all this is likely to be Mexico, which has remained an open country and is not relying on vaccine passports. In general I do not admire Mexico's lackadaisical COVID-19 response, but the country may end up in a relatively favorable position, most of all when it comes to tourism and international business meetings.

As for the U.S. and Europe, the temptation to escalate required safety measures is understandable. But the previous vaccine standards were largely workable ones. If they are made tougher, they might break down altogether.

In the meantime: Anyone interested in a trip to Oaxaca?



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com); or through our website at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

## Washington is poised to accept a wave of Afghan refugees. How will they be received?

**B**efore the latest crisis in Afghanistan, Auburn's Navid Hamidi said the "sky was the limit" for the generation who grew up after the Taliban was ousted in 2001, but he said now "those hopes are dead."

Hamidi, the executive director and co-founder of the Kent, Washington-based Afghan Health Initiative, which supports the health and education of the local Afghan community, said last week that the dreams and aspirations of Afghanistan's people were in jeopardy after the withdrawal of U.S. forces, the rapid fall of the Afghan government and the resurgence of the Taliban.

Women, in particular, he said, "will lose everything that they were able to do in the past 20 years."

Hamidi, 32, experienced the terror of Taliban rule. As a child in the late '90s in Kabul, Hamidi was too young to fully comprehend the political currents around him but was old enough to remember the brutality.

In one of the Taliban's first horrific acts near his home in 1996, Hamidi said he and his friends were told, "Hey, they are hanging the president of Afghanistan Dr. [Mohammad] Najibullah, do you guys want to go watch it?" So we went to this street of Kabul, and then in a traffic circle we watched that."

In the coming years he said he saw women get beaten, others have their hands cut off and—in one instance—a woman was executed during a soccer match.

After the Taliban were overthrown in 2001 and Hamidi became an adult, he worked as a linguist and cultural and political adviser for U.S. armed forces for years before coming to the U.S. on a Special Immigrant Visa in 2014.

Now with the Taliban back in power, Hamidi fears for his sisters, parents and other family who are still in Afghanistan and are trying to get out.

He is especially concerned about the fate of women and girls in his family and in the country. He does not buy the Taliban's

argument that their new regime will be kinder and gentler than their original one, where education for girls and women was forbidden, most work prohibited and repression of women brutal. While the Taliban have said women will now be able to work and go to school, Hamidi wants to know how that will work if the Taliban continue to require women to have a male family member escort them everywhere they go.

"When you see all those limitations [the Taliban] impose, that contradicts their belief and their claim that [women] will be able to go to school and go to work and be active members of society," he said.

Hamidi said the U.S. must uphold its commitment to protect Afghans who helped support them over the past two decades and who will face a "bloodbath" if they are not helped to safety.

The question of our obligation to the thousands of Afghans who are desperately trying to flee the country is now top of mind. President Biden, who initially took a callous "you're on your own" attitude, softened his tone last Friday, affirming the U.S. would aid evacuations of Afghan allies.

Among the many heartbreaking scenes of desperation last week were images of people—one later identified as young soccer player Zaki Anwari—falling from the wheel well of an evacuation plane. In another video, adults handed babies over a razor wire fence to soldiers at the Kabul airport.

Now, Washington is poised to accept a rapid wave of Afghan refugees. How will they be received?

Will the majority of the public oppose resettlement, as they did for Vietnamese refugees of the 1970s? Will conservatives like Tucker Carlson be successful in whipping up xenophobic opposition to refugees as columnist Danny Westneat described last week? Time will tell.

But early indications are that in Western Washington at least, the arms of our community are open.

By **NAOMI ISHISAKA**

The Seattle Times



While huge immediate challenges remain—specifically housing—and the long-term social and psychological effects of displacement and dislocation yet to be felt, Hamidi said the outpouring of support and well wishes from the community has been overwhelming.

In addition to offering short- and long-term housing, Hamidi said people are donating household items and other necessities to help families get established in Washington.

We have seen too often how Islamophobia and anti-immigrant sentiment have reared their ugly heads after major geopolitical shifts and crises like we are experiencing now. After 9/11, for example, hate crimes targeted toward Muslims spiked.

But while nuance is often a missing element in our political discourse, we can't afford to fall into the lazy trap of conflating Afghan Muslim refugees with the Taliban's ruthless and fringe interpretation of Islam. Just as the intolerance and hate of the Westboro Baptist Church does not represent Christianity, the Taliban do not represent Islam.

Hamidi said the desperation of the refugees speaks for itself.

"Do you think those people that are hanging from the airplane at Kabul airports as we saw on the TV, do you think those people are [such] believers of Islam that they want to fly in the wings of the airplane to come here and to radicalize people?" he asked.

"No, they are escaping those radical ideas themselves."

Hamidi's primary ask of our community is a simple and achievable one: "Just be welcoming." I think it's the very least we can do.

## Afghanistan's collapse confirms immense scale of George W. Bush's policy screw-up

**I**n 1983, Harvard-educated psychiatrist turned Carter administration bureaucrat turned conservative pundit Charles Krauthammer wrote a remarkably prescient column for *Time* magazine about "the mirror-image fallacy"—the presumption of so many American policymakers and Americans in general that the leaders and residents of other nations shared our values.

"If people everywhere, from Savannah to Sevastopol, share the same hopes and dreams and fears and love of children ... they should get along. And if they don't then there must be some misunderstanding, some misperception, some problem of communication," Krauthammer wrote.

"If the whole world is like me, then certain conflicts become incomprehensible; the very notion of intractability becomes paradoxical. The more virulent pronouncements of Third World countries are dismissed as mere rhetoric. The more alien the sentiment, the less seriously it is taken. Diplomatic fiascos follow. ... [The U.S.] might have spared itself [from debacles in Islamic nations] if it had not in the first place imagined that underneath those kaffiyehs are folks just like us, sharing our aims and views."

America's 20-year Afghanistan debacle is as precise a confirmation of Krauthammer's insight as is humanly possible.

Yes, of course, President George W. Bush was going to exact retribution for the Taliban's decision to allow Osama bin Laden to plan his 9/11 attacks in Afghanistan. But Bush's commitment to not just punishing the Taliban but to taming and remaking Afghanistan was remarkable in its refusal to consider deeply relevant history.

Afghanistan—a remote, landlocked, mountainous, impoverished nation in west Asia—is built on tightly bound "kinship

networks" in which extended families fiercely protect their own interests. A 2012 study found that in some provinces, a majority of marriages were "consanguineous"—among related men and women. The health risks are disregarded because of a desire by families to have first cousins marry so as to retain wealth and solidarity. This is one of many reasons why Afghanistan has never come close to having an effective central government. "Kinship networks" would perceive such a government as threatening.

Yet First World superpowers somehow have repeatedly convinced themselves that they could impose order on a distant, staggeringly different nation. In the 19th century, the British empire—then by far the most powerful force in global affairs—tried and failed twice to establish control of Afghanistan. In 1979, fearful that a new Afghan leader might switch his loyalties from Moscow to Washington, Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev ordered the invasion of Afghanistan. Though it was then at the height of its global influence, the Soviet Union had no more success than the British in dealing with the 14 tribes of Afghanistan. Soviet troops left in 1989 without accomplishing a single lasting change.

Now it is America's turn as a superpower humiliated by Afghans who resist Western ways. The Taliban's easy reconquest of Kabul and other cities has produced a predictable political and media firestorm over the Biden administration's failure to properly plan how to protect not just remaining U.S. diplomats, contractors and troops but the Afghan support personnel whose lives and families are at risk with militant extremists back in power.

But President Joe Biden—a deep skeptic while vice president of President Barack Obama's decision to increase the U.S. military presence in 2011 to a record 82,000 troops—is right



Bush

By **CHRIS REED**

The San Diego Union-Tribune

*Chris Reed is deputy editor of The San Diego Union-Tribune editorial and opinion section. Twitter: @calwhine. Email: [chris.reed@sduniontribune.com](mailto:chris.reed@sduniontribune.com).*



to see this as a failure of the national security establishment, and not just Bush. A decade ago, when Biden warned Obama that Afghanistan was a "dangerous quagmire," he was opposed by both the Defense and the State Departments. He was right. More than 2,400 Americans have died, more than 20,000 were injured and more than \$2.2 trillion in taxpayer money was wasted on a futile war.

In 2019, *The Washington Post* posted "The Afghanistan Papers," an extraordinary investigation that showed the Bush, Obama and Trump administrations were fully aware of how corrupt Kabul was and how little credibility the central government there had. The lead: "A confidential trove of government documents ... reveals that senior U.S. officials failed to tell the truth about the war in Afghanistan throughout the 18-year campaign, making rosy pronouncements they knew to be false and hiding unmistakable evidence the war had become unwinnable." In early 2002, six months after the war began, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld privately warned the White House that disaster loomed if the U.S. couldn't establish a strong central government.

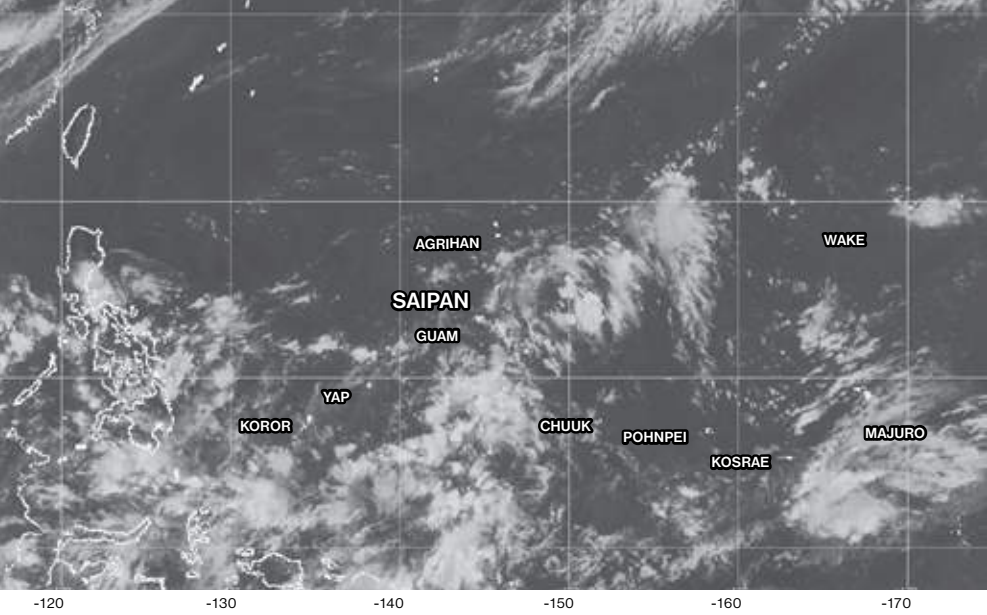
But Bush listened to Vice President Dick Cheney, not to Rumsfeld or his father, former President George H.W. Bush, and somehow thought Afghanistan just needed nudging to become a bastion of American values. Call this what it is: the greatest, most grotesque policy screw-up in modern U.S. history.

Afghanistan has been around for more than 2,500 years. As three global superpowers discovered, its values are entrenched.



# The Weather

| 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN   |     |   |     |   |     |   |     |  |     |
|--|-----|---|-----|---|-----|---|-----|--|-----|
| TODAY  |     | FRIDAY  |     | SATURDAY  |     | SUNDAY  |     | MONDAY   |     |
|  |     |   |     |   |     |   |     |  |     |
| Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph. |     | Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. |     | Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. |     | Partly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. |     | Partly sunny with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. |     |
| 85°  | 77° | 85°   | 77° | 85°   | 77° | 85°   | 77° | 85°  | 77° |
| YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE  |     |   |     |   |     |   |     |  |     |



PICTURE TIME: 8:06 AM, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are seen near the Marianas coastal waters. Trade winds will remain light to moderate with combined seas of 2 to 3 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

## STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

**Continue good hand hygiene**

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

**Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic**

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
  - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
  - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at [www.chcc.gov.mp](http://www.chcc.gov.mp) or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit [www.governor.gov.mp](http://www.governor.gov.mp) and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at [www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19](http://www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19).

**Rumor control**

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

| MICRONESIA    |               |            | ▲ ▼ °F |
|---------------|---------------|------------|--------|
| Guam and Rota | Rain          | 76 / 81 °F |        |
| Palau         | Mostly cloudy | 80 / 88 °F |        |
| Yap           | Cloudy        | 79 / 86 °F |        |
| Chuuk         | Cloudy        | 80 / 89 °F |        |
| Pohnpei       | Partly cloudy | 75 / 87 °F |        |
| Kosrae        | Partly cloudy | 80 / 87 °F |        |
| Majuro        | Partly cloudy | 83 / 87 °F |        |

| DAY      | SUNRISE | SUNSET  |
|----------|---------|---------|
| Today    | 6:03 AM | 6:33 PM |
| Friday   | 6:04 AM | 6:32 PM |
| Saturday | 6:04 AM | 6:32 PM |
| Sunday   | 6:04 AM | 6:31 PM |
| Monday   | 6:04 AM | 6:30 PM |

| DAY      | MOONRISE | MOONSET  | MOONRISE |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Today    | -        | 9:02 AM  | 9:16 PM  |
| Friday   | -        | 9:50 AM  | 9:52 PM  |
| Saturday | -        | 10:38 AM | 10:29 PM |
| Sunday   | -        | 11:27 AM | 11:08 PM |
| Monday   | -        | 12:17 PM | 11:50 PM |

| AROUND THE GLOBE |                  |            | ▲ ▼ °F |
|------------------|------------------|------------|--------|
| Auckland         | Mostly sunny     | 44 / 58 °F |        |
| Beijing          | Afternoon clouds | 67 / 79 °F |        |
| Hong Kong        | Mostly cloudy    | 80 / 87 °F |        |
| Honolulu         | Partly cloudy    | 73 / 82 °F |        |
| London           | Sunny            | 58 / 74 °F |        |
| Los Angeles      | Sunny            | 64 / 89 °F |        |
| Manila           | Heavy rain       | 80 / 85 °F |        |
| Melbourne        | Partly cloudy    | 51 / 58 °F |        |
| Miami            | Partly cloudy    | 82 / 88 °F |        |
| New York         | Partly sunny     | 79 / 87 °F |        |
| Osaka            | Morning clouds   | 77 / 90 °F |        |
| Paris            | Morning clouds   | 64 / 87 °F |        |
| Pusan            | Partly cloudy    | 77 / 89 °F |        |
| Rome             | Partly cloudy    | 66 / 85 °F |        |
| Salem            | Sunny            | 56 / 87 °F |        |
| San Francisco    | Morning clouds   | 56 / 69 °F |        |
| Seoul            | Morning clouds   | 74 / 91 °F |        |
| Tokyo            | Cloudy           | 78 / 87 °F |        |
| Washington, DC   | Partly sunny     | 76 / 94 °F |        |

| TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY |           |      | FEET |
|----------------------------|-----------|------|------|
| 4:20 AM                    | Low Tide  | 0.81 |      |
| 9:47 AM                    | High Tide | 1.84 |      |
| 4:24 PM                    | Low Tide  | 0.50 |      |
| 10:29 PM                   | High Tide | 1.87 |      |

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 1, 2021

| DEPARTURES          |        |        |                  | ARRIVALS            |         |          |                  |
|---------------------|--------|--------|------------------|---------------------|---------|----------|------------------|
| SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)   |        |        |                  | GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN   |         |          |                  |
| UA117               | 9:15am | 9:55am | 2, 4, 5, 7       | UA174               | 4:50am  | 5:50am   | 1, 3, 6          |
| UA117               | 6:30am | 7:10am | 1, 3, 6          | UA174               | 7:30am  | 8:11am   | 2, 4, 5, 7       |
| SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) |        |        |                  | MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN |         |          |                  |
| UA117/183           | 6:30am | 8:50pm | 2, 5 via Guam    | UA184/174           | 9:50pm  | 5:50am+1 | 2, 5 via Guam    |
| UA117/183           | 6:30am | 9:10pm | 3, 6, 7 via Guam | UA184/174           | 10:25pm | 8:11am+1 | 3, 6, 7 via Guam |
| GUAM-MANILA (MNL)   |        |        |                  | MANILA (MNL)-GUAM   |         |          |                  |
| UA183               | 6:55pm | 8:50pm | 2, 5             | UA184               | 9:50pm  | 4:00am+1 | 2, 5             |
| UA183               | 7:15pm | 9:10pm | 3, 6, 7          | UA184               | 10:25pm | 4:40am+1 | 3, 6, 7          |

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

### FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

| SAIPAN TO ROTA   |           |         |                         | 1202             | 8:00      | 8:15    | Daily                   |
|------------------|-----------|---------|-------------------------|------------------|-----------|---------|-------------------------|
| FLIGHT #         | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY               | 1203             | 9:00      | 9:15    | Daily                   |
| 1301             | 8:30AM    | 9:00AM  | Daily                   | 1204             | 10:00     | 10:15   | Daily                   |
| 1302             | 11:00AM   | 11:30AM | Daily                   | 1205             | 11:00     | 11:15   | Daily                   |
| 1303             | 1:30PM    | 2:00PM  | Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri      | 1206             | 12:00     | 12:15   | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 1304             | 3:30PM    | 4:00PM  | Daily                   | 1207             | 13:00     | 13:15   | Temporarily Unavailable |
| ROTA TO SAIPAN   |           |         |                         | 1208             | 14:00     | 14:15   | Daily                   |
| FLIGHT #         | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY               | 1209             | 15:00     | 15:15   | Daily                   |
| 3101             | 9:30AM    | 10:00AM | Daily                   | 1210             | 16:00     | 16:15   | Daily                   |
| 3102             | 12:00AM   | 12:30AM | Daily                   | 1211             | 17:00     | 17:15   | Daily                   |
| 3103             | 1:30PM    | 3:00PM  | Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri      | 1212             | 17:00     | 17:15   | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 3104             | 4:30PM    | 5:00PM  | Daily                   |                  |           |         |                         |
| ROTA TO GUAM     |           |         |                         | TINIAN TO SAIPAN |           |         |                         |
| FLIGHT #         | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY               | FLIGHT #         | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY               |
| 3401             | 12:15     | 12:45   | Temporarily Unavailable | 2101             | 7:30      | 7:45    | Temporarily Unavailable |
| GUAM TO ROTA     |           |         |                         | 2102             | 8:30      | 8:45    | Daily                   |
| FLIGHT #         | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY               | 2103             | 9:30      | 9:45    | Daily                   |
| 4301             | 13:00     | 13:30   | Temporarily Unavailable | 2104             | 10:30     | 10:45   | Daily                   |
|                  |           |         |                         | 2105             | 11:30     | 11:45   | Daily                   |
|                  |           |         |                         | 2106             | 12:30     | 12:45   | Temporarily Unavailable |
|                  |           |         |                         | 2107             | 13:30     | 13:45   | Temporarily Unavailable |
|                  |           |         |                         | 2108             | 14:30     | 14:45   | Daily                   |
|                  |           |         |                         | 2109             | 15:30     | 15:45   | Daily                   |
|                  |           |         |                         | 2110             | 16:30     | 16:45   | Daily                   |
|                  |           |         |                         | 2111             | 17:30     | 17:45   | Daily                   |
|                  |           |         |                         | 2112             | 18:30     | 18:45   | Temporarily Unavailable |
| SAIPAN TO TINIAN |           |         |                         |                  |           |         |                         |
| FLIGHT #         | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY               |                  |           |         |                         |
| 1201             | 7:00      | 7:15    | Temporarily Unavailable |                  |           |         |                         |

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website: [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

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## Guam's DPHSS welcomes FDA approval of COVID-19 vaccine

After months of careful and stringent review, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the first COVID-19 vaccine on Tuesday. The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, an mRNA vaccine which will now be marketed as Comirnaty, has been given the nod of approval for the prevention of COVID-19 in individuals ages 16 and older. Emergency use authorization continues to be available for individuals ages 12 to 15.

"This is a huge milestone in our fight against COVID-19 and could not have come at a better time. FDA approval boosts confidence in the vaccine," said Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services director Art San Agustin. "Although our island has achieved success in vaccinating over 80% of our adult population, highly contagious variant strains of COVID-19 threaten our community, especially among the unvaccinated. We are seeing a surge of cases and the hospital census continues to rise. It is imperative that more of our eligible population get vaccinated."

The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine has been available under EUA since Dec. 11, 2020, for individuals 16 and older. In Guam, it became available on Dec. 17, 2020. This vaccine was then expanded to adolescents 12 to 15 years of age on May 10, 2021.

"DPHSS has been advocating for vaccination not only because we believe in the safety and efficacy of these vaccines, but also because we know how much it can reduce the number of hospitalizations. These vaccines are the most heavily scrutinized vaccines in the world,

having followed every strict scientific step necessary to create it. While we understand the initial concerns with a new vaccine, more than 4.95 billion shots have been given worldwide, with very few short-term side effects. Meanwhile, the risk of death or serious complications from COVID-19 is significantly higher. Science has shown that the benefits of the vaccine outweigh the risk of subjecting your unvaccinated body to COVID-19," said Dr. Felix Cabrera, DPHSS chief medical officer.

FDA-approved vaccines undergo standard process for reviewing the quality, safety, and effectiveness of medical products. The FDA evaluates data and information included in the manufacturer's submission of a biologics license application.

According to the FDA, to support its approval decision, it reviewed updated data from a randomized, controlled, blinded clinical trial of thousands of individuals, which supported the EUA first issued on Dec. 11, 2020. The updated data included a longer duration of follow-up in a larger clinical trial population. Based on results from the clinical trial, the vaccine was 91% effective in preventing COVID-19 disease.

"The evidence is clear; the science is clear. Vaccines are our No. 1 protection against COVID-19 and other public health interventions. More unvaccinated people are ending up in the hospital. More children who are not eligible are testing positive. If these reasons weren't enough, we hope FDA approval will motivate you to get the shot," DPHSS chief public health officer Chima Mbakwem said. (PR)

## NASA seeks student tech ideas for suborbital launch

NASA is calling on all sixth through 12th-grade educators and students to submit experiments for possible suborbital flights as a way of gaining firsthand experience with the design and testing process used by NASA researchers.

The NASA TechRise Student Challenge invites students to design, build, and launch experiments on suborbital rockets and high-altitude balloons. The challenge aims to inspire a deeper understanding of Earth's atmosphere, space exploration, coding, electronics, and the value of test data.

"Central to NASA's mission is inspiring and educating the workforce of the future. The research areas students can explore through TechRise are endless, from technology to better understand our planet to innovative systems for deep space exploration," said NASA Administrator Bill Nelson. "We hope to see entries from students across the country, showcasing the diverse talent and ideas of the next generation."

Guided by an educator, student teams affiliated with U.S. public, private, and charter

schools can develop and submit creative experiment ideas. The entry period is open until Nov. 3, 2021.

Each winning team will receive \$1,500 to build their experiment and an assigned spot to test it on a NASA-

designs and adjust or make improvements as needed.

To enter the competition, teams should submit their experiment ideas online using the TechRise proposal framework. NASA plans to announce the competition winners in Janu-

ary 2022. The selected student teams will build their experiments and watch them take flight in early 2023.

"It's an honor to be part of the virtual field trip, and I can't wait to work directly with students who will build and test designs that will explore microgravity," said Baxter. "Our goal is to inspire them, and I'm sure their ideas will inspire us."

### Volunteer to judge

NASA is also seeking volunteers to help judge the entries. U.S. residents with expertise in engineering, space, and/or atmospheric research who are interested in reviewing NASA TechRise submissions can apply to be a judge here. (AP)

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

### IN BRIEF

NASA TechRise Student Challenge, which is open to students in sixth through 12th-grade, invites teams to design, build, and launch experiments on suborbital rockets and high-altitude balloons. Entry period is open until Nov. 3, 2021, and NASA will announce the challenge winners in January 2022. Each of the winning teams will receive \$1,500 to build their experiments and an assigned spot to test it on a NASA-sponsored suborbital flight.

sponsored suborbital flight operated by Blue Origin, UP Aerospace, or Raven Aerostar.


Flying experiments on suborbital rockets and high-altitude balloons takes technologies from ground-based laboratories into relevant testing environments. The flights replicate microgravity, solar exposure, radiation, extreme temperatures, vacuum, and intense vibrations. Understanding how payloads respond to these conditions allows researchers to validate their


ary 2022. The selected student teams will build their experiments and watch them take flight in early 2023.

### Take a virtual field trip

NASA and Future Engineers, the challenge administrator, will host a TechRise virtual field trip Friday, Sept. 24, to share more information about the challenge and inspire research questions and experiment ideas.

Educators and students can tune in to hear from NASA


**CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES**  
 CNMI GOVERNMENT  
**INVITATION TO BID**  
**ITB NO.: ITB21-MOTA-124**  
**SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 10, 2021 TIME: 09:00 A.M.**  
**"TINIAN TENNIS COURT RENOVATION FOR THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR, MUNICIPALITY OF TINIAN AND AGUIGUAN"**  
COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE TINIAN MAYOR'S OFFICE, SAN JOSE VIALGE, TINIAN & THE TINIAN LIASON OFFICE, NAVY HILL RD., SAIPAN. A \$100 NON-REFUNDABLE FEE FOR THE PROJECT PACKAGE WILL BE ASSESSED.  
**A PRE-BID MEETING AND SITE INSPECTION FOR THIS PROJECT IS ON AUGUST 26, 2021 AT 10:00 A.M. LOCAL TIME AT THE PROJECT SITE, SAN JOSE, TINIAN.**  
QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO MRS. RAENA CABRERA, PROJECT MANAGER, VIA EMAIL TO [rcabrera10@gmail.com](mailto:rcabrera10@gmail.com) NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS AUGUST 19, 2021. QUESTIONS SUBMITTED AFTER THE GIVEN DEADLINE WILL NOT BE ENTERTAINED.  
**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**  
THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.  
**/S/ EDWIN P. ALDAN** **/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON**  
**MAYOR OF TINIAN & AGUIGUAN** **ACTING DIRECTOR, PS**



**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)**  
**MVA-RFP-21-2039**  
**For: Marianas Visitors Authority Office Space Lease on the island of Saipan, MP 96950**  
**Submission /Closing Date: September 09, 2021 Time: 1:00PM (ChST)**  
**Submit sealed proposals to:** Marianas Visitors Authority  
 Attn: Procurement Office  
 San Jose Professional Building  
 Beach Rd., San Jose  
 P.O. Box 500861  
 Saipan, MP 96950  
 Interested parties may pick up the RFP package on or after **August 26, 2021** at the Marianas Visitors Authority Office, San Jose Professional Building, Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan, from 8:00AM to 5:00PM (ChST), Monday through Friday, except holidays.  
 The RFP package can be emailed to anyone interested. The request via email must reference "MVA-RFP-21-2039" on the subject line to [Imaratita@mymarianas.com](mailto:Imaratita@mymarianas.com)  
**/s/ Ellsabeth Viola Alepuyo** **/s/ Priscilla M. Iakopo**  
**Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors** **Managing Director, MVA**


**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**  
**COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION**  
**INVITATION TO BID (ITB)**  
**ITB21-CHCC/CGC-SATR-001**  
**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 20, 2021 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)**  
**"PROCUREMENT OF 7-SEATS PASSENGER VAN"**  
 INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS INVITATION TO BID FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE: [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP](http://WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.  
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**/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA** **/S/ CORA P. ADA**  
**CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER** **DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY**


**CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES**  
 CNMI GOVERNMENT  
**INVITATION TO BID (ITB)**  
**ITB NO.: ITB21-DOF/CUS-126**  
**SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 09, 2021 TIME: 09:00 A.M.**  
**"BOAT DIAGNOSTIC, ENGINE AND PARTS"**  
COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.  
**\*\*FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY\*\***  
QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO MR. JOSE C. MAFNAS, DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF CUSTOMS AND QUARANTINE, VIA PHONE AT 664-1610 OR EMAIL TO [cnmicustoms@dof.gov.mp](mailto:cnmicustoms@dof.gov.mp).  
**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS, AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**  
THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.  
**/S/ DAVID DLG. ATALIG** **/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON /**  
**SECRETARY OF FINANCE** **ACTING DIRECTOR, P.S.**

Iofina Marciano  
 P.O. Box 10002, 142 PMB  
 Saipan MP 96950  
 287-8551  
 Pro se  
**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT**  
**OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE**  
**NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**  
 In Re the Matter )  
 of the Petition )  
 for the ) FCD-GU-CIVIL  
 Appointment of ) ACTION NO.  
 General ) 21-0302  
 Guardianship for: )  
 P.T.M. ) **NOTICE OF**  
 I.K.T.B ) **HEARING**  
 Minor Children )  
 By: )  
 Iofina Marciano )  
 Petitioner )  
 Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on December 27, 2021, at 9:00am in Courtroom 217a before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.  
 Dated this 4th day of July, 2021.  
 Patrick V. Diaz  
 Clerk of court  
 /s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

**TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION**  
 Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan  
 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold its Regular Meeting on Tuesday, August 31, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Conference Room.  
**AGENDA**  
**I. PRELIMINARY**  
 a. Call to Order  
 b. Roll Call  
 c. Adoption of Agenda  
 d. Adoption of Minutes  
 1. July 29, 2021 – Special Meeting  
**II. PUBLIC COMMENTS**  
**III. REPORTS**  
 a. Chair's Report  
 b. Executive Director's Report  
**IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**  
 a. Casino Service Industry  
 1) Matsui Asia, Limited  
 2) United State Playing Cards  
**V. NEW BUSINESS**  
 a. Status Update of Bridge Investment Group/Tinian Diamond Casino  
**VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**  
**VII. OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS**  
**VIII. MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**  
**IX. ADJOURNMENT**  
<sup>1</sup> Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.  
<sup>2</sup> Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.


**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING NOTICE**  
 Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority hereby gives notice that a **Special Board of Directors Meeting** will be held on **Friday, August 27, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.** in the MVA Conference Room, Saipan MP 96950.  
**MEETING AGENDA**  

- Preliminary Matters**
  - Call to Order
  - Roll Call
  - Adoption of Agenda
- Public Comments**
- New Business**
  - CNMI Tourism Resumption Investment Plan (TRIP) - Modification
    - Korea
  - Asiana Airlines Letter – Current Entry Protocols
  - Amendments to the MVA Bylaws
    - Public Law 22-05: "To authorize government agencies, boards, and commissions to promulgate regulations to utilize electronic means to participate in official meetings"
- Old Business**
  - Cancellation of MVA-RFP-21-2031 Desk Audit
- Executive Session**
- Miscellaneous/Announcements**
- Adjournment**

 /s/ Viola Alepuyo  
 Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors



# Business

## House OKs \$3.5T Biden blueprint

WASHINGTON (AP)—Striking a deal with moderates, House Democratic leaders have muscled President Joe Biden's multitrillion-dollar budget blueprint over a key hurdle, ending a risky standoff and putting the party's domestic infrastructure agenda back on track.

The 220-212 vote Tuesday was a first move toward drafting Biden's \$3.5 trillion rebuilding plan this fall, and the narrow outcome, in the face of unanimous Republican opposition, signaled the power a few voices have to alter the debate and the challenges ahead still threatening to upend the president's agenda.

From the White House, Biden praised the outcome as "a step closer to truly investing in the American people." He said at a news conference that he had called to congratulate House leaders for the work.

Tensions had flared during a turbulent 24 hours that brought the House to a standstill as a band of moderate law-



Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., leaves the chamber at the Capitol in Washington, Tuesday, Aug. 24, 2021. AP

makers threatened to withhold their votes for the \$3.5 trillion plan. They were demanding the House first approve a nearly \$1 trillion bipartisan package of other public works projects that's already passed the Senate.

Backed by the White House, Speaker Nancy Pelosi huddled privately with lawmakers and leaders to engineer an off-ramp. In brokering the compromise, Pelosi committed to voting on the bipartisan pack-

age no later than Sept. 27, an attempt to assure lawmakers it won't be left on the sidelines. It's also in keeping with Pelosi's insistence that the two bills move together as a more complete collection of Biden's priorities. Pelosi has set a goal of passing both by Oct. 1.

Pelosi told her colleagues before the vote that the legislation would lead to a federal investment on par with the New Deal and the Great Society.

## FDA move prompts more vaccine mandates

By PAUL WISEMAN and JOSEPH PISANI  
AP BUSINESS WRITERS

From Walt Disney World to Goldman Sachs, a flurry of private and public employers are requiring workers to get vaccinated against COVID-19 after the federal government gave full approval to the Pfizer shot. And the number is certain to grow much higher.

For the past eight months, coronavirus shots were dispensed in the U.S. under emergency authorization from the Food and Drug Administration. Some workers and unions objected to getting the

vaccine—and some employers were reluctant to require it—because it had yet to receive FDA full approval. That happened on Monday.

"The FDA decision takes that off the table," said Devjani Mishra, a New York-based attorney with the firm Littler Mendelson, which specializes in workplace matters. She and others in the worlds of business, law and health predicted more companies will mandate vaccines for their workforces.

Shortly after the FDA acted, Walt Disney World reached a deal with its unions to require all workers at its theme park in Orlando, Florida, to be

vaccinated.

Goldman Sachs told employees Tuesday that it will require anyone who enters the bank's U.S. offices to be fully vaccinated starting Sept. 7, according to a memo obtained by The New York Times.

Drugstore chain CVS said pharmacists, nurses and other workers who have contact with patients will have to be inoculated. Oil giant Chevron Corp. said it will require some of its workers—such as those who travel internationally, live abroad or work on its offshore platforms in the Gulf of Mexico—to get their COVID-19 shots.



### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### TikTok to let users shop through app with Shopify deal

TikTok users will soon be able to buy stuff directly through the short videos on the app—something they had only been able to do through ads until now. Canadian e-commerce company Shopify said Tuesday that businesses will be able to add a shopping tab to their TikTok profiles to create a "mini-storefront" that links directly to their online store for checkout. The shopping tool, which is still being tested, is available to merchants in the U.S., the U.K. and Canada, and will roll out to more regions in the coming months. Shopify already had a deal with TikTok that let merchants create "shoppable" video ads that drive customers to online stores. ByteDance, the Beijing-based company that owns TikTok, already runs a thriving social media marketplace on Douyin, its twin video app for the Chinese market. Buying products through social media websites isn't yet as common in the U.S., though Pinterest and Facebook-owned Instagram have made some inroads.

#### Scientists launch effort to collect water data in US West

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP)—The U.S. Department of Energy on Tuesday announced a new kind of climate observatory near the headwaters of the Colorado River that will help scientists better predict rain and snowfall in the U.S. West and determine how much of it will flow through the region. The multimillion-dollar effort led by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory launches next week. The team has set up radar systems, balloons, cameras and other equipment in an area of Colorado where much of the water in the river originates as snow. More than 40 million people depend on the Colorado River. Alejandro Flores, an associate professor of hydrology at Boise State University, said the weather in mountainous areas is notoriously difficult to model and the observatory will be a "game changer." "We have to think about the land and the atmosphere as a linked system that interact with each other," he said in a call with reporters. "Up until now, there have been a lack of observations that help us understand this critical interface."

# Nation

## Biden holds to Aug. 31 goal on Afghanistan evacuations

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, ROBERT BURNS AND RAHIM FAIEZ  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. President Joe Biden declared Tuesday he is sticking to his Aug. 31 deadline for completing a risky airlift of Americans, endangered Afghans and others seeking to escape Taliban-controlled Afghanistan. The decision defies allied leaders who want to give the evacuation more time and opens Biden to criticism that he caved to Taliban deadline demands.

"Every day we're on the ground is another day that we know ISIS-K is seeking to target the airport and attack both us and allied forces and innocent civilians," Biden said at the White House, referring to the Islamic State group's Afghanistan affiliate, which is known for staging suicide attacks on civilians.

He said the Taliban are cooperating and security is holding despite a number of violent incidents. "But it's a tenuous situation," he said, adding, "We run a serious risk of it breaking down as time goes on."



Afghan people who were transported from Afghanistan, walk after disembarking a plane, at the Torrejon military base as part of the evacuation process in Madrid, Monday, Aug. 23, 2021. AP

The United States in recent days has ramped up its airlift amid new reports of rights abuses that fuel concern about the fate of thousands of people who fear retribution from the Taliban and are trying to flee the country. The Pentagon said 21,600 people had been evacuated in the 24 hours that ended Tuesday morning, and Biden said an additional 12,000 had been flown out in the 12 hours that followed. Those include flights operated by the U.S. military as well as other charter flights.

Biden said he had asked the Pentagon and State Department for evacuation contingency plans that would adjust the timeline for full withdrawal should that become necessary.

Pentagon officials expressed confidence the airlift, which started on Aug. 14, can get all Americans out by next Tuesday, the deadline Biden had set long before the Taliban completed their takeover. But unknown thousands of other foreign nationals remain in Afghanistan and are struggling to get out.



### ACROSS THE NATION

#### Small plane lands on Interstate 5 north of San Diego

DEL MAR, Calif. (AP)—A small airplane made an emergency landing on an interstate highway north of San Diego on Tuesday, clipping cars, slightly injuring some people and causing a huge traffic jam, authorities said. The single-engine Piper PA-32 had mechanical problems after taking off from Montgomery-Gibbs Executive Airport and was trying to land in a nearby field but instead went down in the southbound lanes of Interstate 5 near Del Mar shortly after noon, authorities said. It clipped several cars and came to rest partially on the center divider. Two people in the cars were taken to a hospital for treatment of minor injuries, including slight cuts from broken glass, according to the California Highway Patrol. The two people aboard the plane appeared to be unhurt, the CHP said.

#### Crews scour debris for more victims after Tennessee floods

WAVERLY, Tenn. (AP)—Crews with chainsaws and heavy equipment cleared their way through trees densely matted with vegetation, garbage and building debris Tuesday as searchers scoured a normally shallow creek for more flooding victims in rural Tennessee. Even cars and sheds were woven into the tangle of debris lining Trace Creek in Humphreys County, where the town of Waverly saw the most death and destruction from Saturday's flooding that killed 18 people. Three people remained unaccounted for Tuesday. At one bridge, an excavator crawled into the creek to dig through a debris plug that included

large trees, huge spools of cable, panels of wooden fencing and chunks of concrete. Officers watched from above and downstream in case a body was uncovered. Other crews were working with chainsaws along the banks, clearing smaller objects. Several miles downstream, officers had deployed drones to help with the search. It's difficult to know how far the bodies might have been carried, but one car was found about a half-mile from where it had been parked, Humphreys County Chief Deputy Rob Edwards said.

#### Man pleads guilty to 1974 slaying of 17-year-old Texas girl

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)—A man stopped his capital murder trial Tuesday with a guilty plea to the 1974 killing of a 17-year-old Texas girl. Glen McCurley, 78, of Fort Worth, was immediately sentenced to life imprisonment for the abduction, torture, rape and killing of Carla Walker. Prosecutors had said they would not seek the death penalty for McCurley, who admitted to police that he had killed Walker. A video recording of that interview was played for jurors. The Fort Worth high school student was in a car with her boyfriend outside a Valentine's Day party at a bowling alley the night of Feb. 17, 1974, when a man pistol-whipped the boy and grabbed Walker. Her body was found three days later stuffed in a culvert near Lake Benbrook, which is near where the abduction happened. McCurley had been one of a number of people under suspicion since the crime occurred, but investigators had been unable to link him definitively to Walker's death.



# Asia

## Japan seeks public support for Fukushima water release plan

**TOKYO (AP)**—Japan's government adopted an interim plan Tuesday that it hopes will win support from fishermen and other concerned groups for a planned release into the sea of treated but still radioactive water from the wrecked Fukushima nuclear plant.

The government decided in April to start discharging the water into the Pacific Ocean in the spring of 2023 after building a facility and compiling release plans under safety requirements set by regulators. The idea has been fiercely opposed by fishermen, residents and Japan's neighbors including China and South Korea.

Under the plan adopted Tuesday, the government will set up a fund to buy fisheries products and freeze them for temporary storage to cushion the impact from negative rumors about the discharge. The government will also help promote Fukushima products to restaurants and other food industries.

The government also plans to start raising fish in the water treated to levels allowable for discharge as part of a safety awareness campaign. Further details have yet to be decided.

The accumulating water has been stored in about 1,000 tanks at the Fukushima Dai-

ichi plant since 2011, when a massive earthquake and tsunami damaged its reactors and their cooling water became contaminated and began leaking. The plant says its storage capacity will be full late next year.

Japanese officials have said ocean release is the most realistic option and that disposing of the water is unavoidable for the decommissioning of the plant. Government and TEPCO officials say tritium, which is not harmful in small amounts, cannot be removed from the water, but all isotopes selected for treatment can be reduced to safe levels for release.

## Women soccer players leave Kabul on evac flight

**KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)**—Players from Afghanistan women's national soccer team had an "important victory" on Tuesday when they were among a group of more than 75 people evacuated on a flight from Kabul.

Global soccer players' union FIFPRO thanked the Australian government for making the evacuation of players, team officials and family members possible, with work continuing to help more leave Afghanistan.

"These young women, both

as athletes and activists, have been in a position of danger and on behalf of their peers around the world we thank the international community for coming to their aid," the union said in a statement.

The Afghan team was created in 2007 in a country where women playing sport was seen as a political act of defiance against the Taliban.

Players had been advised this month to delete social media posts and photographs of them with the team to help

avoid reprisals since the United States-backed Afghanistan government fell.

"The last few days have been extremely stressful but today we have achieved an important victory," former team captain Khalida Popal said.

Popal is among a team of FIFPRO lawyers and advisors who have worked with authorities in six countries, including Australia, the U.S. and United Kingdom, to get athletes and their families on to evacuation lists and flights to safety.

official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak with the press. Than Shwe was hospitalized earlier this month, and his wife a short time later, and both were treated in a VIP section of the hospital under tight security. The government has not yet officially commented on their cases, and independent media in Myanmar initially reported that their hospitalization was a precautionary measure as the country grapples with a new wave of the coronavirus, fueled by the virulent delta variant. But the hospital official confirmed they had both tested positive for COVID-19, though both ended up exhibiting only mild symptoms. He said, for example, neither needed oxygen to help them breathe while they were being treated.

### Indian troops kill 2 rebel commanders, 3 others in Kashmir

**SRINAGAR, India (AP)**—Indian government forces killed two senior rebel commanders and three other militants in two separate counter-insurgency operations in disputed Kashmir, police said Tuesday. The killings come during an intensified government offensive against anti-India rebels in Kashmir, which is divided between nuclear-armed India and Pakistan and claimed by both. Rebels have also killed several members of India's governing party in the region and carried out attacks on Indian troops. Police and soldiers raided a village in the northwestern Sopore area late Monday and engaged at least three militants hiding in a house in a gun battle, police said. Three militants were killed in the clash, which ended Tuesday, police said. They said troops recovered a rifle and two pistols from the site.

# World

## After 4 wars, toll mounts on a Gaza neighborhood



Palestinians walk along Al-Baali Street next to debris of homes heavily damaged by airstrikes during an 11-day war between Israel and Hamas, the militant group that controls Gaza, in Beit Hanoun, northern Gaza Strip, Wednesday, June 16, 2021.

AP

By **ADAM GELLER** and  
**FARES AKRAM**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**BEIT HANOUN, Gaza Strip (AP)**—From the shell of their sitting room, its wall blown open by Israeli missiles, Zaki and Jawaher Nassir have a window into their neighborhood's upheaval.

In one building's skeleton, children play video games atop a slab of fallen concrete. In another, a man stares out from beside a bed covered in debris.

Until this neighborhood was hammered by the fourth war in 13 years between Israel and Hamas, the Nassirs often sat by their window, watching children play. Now they watch demolition workers hack away at the wreckage so they and their neighbors can start rebuilding -- again.

"We have no peace in our lives and we expect that war can happen again at any time," Zaki Nassir says.

The story of the Nassirs, their neighbors and the toll of four wars is Gaza's story.

Since 2008, more than 4,000 Palestinians have been killed in the conflicts, over half of them civilians. The Israeli death toll stands at 106.

The Islamic militants, who reject Israel's right to exist, have fired thousands of rockets across the border. Israel, which considers Hamas a terrorist organization, has repeatedly hit the Strip with overwhelming firepower that, despite its high-tech precision, continues to kill civilians.

Prime Minister Naftali

Bennett has likened Israel's periodic offensives to mowing an unruly lawn. But the wars have done more than \$5 billion in damage to Gaza's buildings and infrastructure. Nearly 250,000 homes have been damaged or destroyed.

Gaza's crisis is rooted in events that came long before Hamas seized control in 2007. More than half its population are from Palestinian families who fled or were driven from what is now Israel during the 1948 war over its formation. But the recurrent fighting and the blockade of recent years have made life in Gaza far worse.

"It's not (just) about you are losing a building. You are losing the hope that things will get better," says Omar Shaban, who runs a Gaza think tank. "Forty percent of the population was born under siege."

The Nassirs are all too familiar with that narrative of despair. But they resist it, even after a fourth war.

"This is what we have," Zaki Nassir says. "We have to live."

■■■

Five decades ago, Zaki Nassir's father moved his family to a plot of farmland in what was then a village. Today, homes built on that tract are filled with Nassirs.

Life in Beit Hanoun deteriorated sharply after Israel withdrew settlers and troops in a 2005 disengagement.

After winning Palestinian elections in 2006, Hamas clashed with the rival Fatah party the following year and seized control of Gaza. In

2008, Israel launched a major offensive after heavy fire by militants.

About 2½ weeks into that war, Israel's military declared a pause in the fighting so residents could gather supplies. Khaldiya Nassir was preparing the family's remaining vegetables when her husband, Adham -- Zaki Nassir's nephew -- announced he was going out to get flour.

On his way home, a woman flagged him down, pleading for help with her wounded daughter. As the 38-year-old Adham carried the girl from their house, he was wounded in the neck and back by a spray of gunfire.

Evacuated to an Egyptian hospital, Adham died three weeks later. His wife blames Israeli special forces.

Afterward, Khaldiya Nassir set aside much of the orphans' assistance her family received to build a home filled with personal touches. After the latest war, much of it will have to be torn down, U.N. inspectors say.

"Everything is gone," she says. "We cannot afford any more fear."

■■■

The Nassirs were largely spared by the next conflict, in 2012. But their neighborhood's reprieve ended when war returned, less than two years later.

In 2014, three Israeli teenagers were kidnapped in the West Bank and found dead weeks later. Members of Hamas eventually claimed responsibility and Israel arrested scores of its leaders in the West Bank.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Japan to further expand virus emergency areas as cases surge

**TOKYO (AP)**—Japan was set to expand its coronavirus state of emergency for a second week in a row Wednesday, adding several more prefectures as a surge in infections fueled by the delta variant strains the country's health care system. The government last week extended the state of emergency until Sept. 12 and expanded the areas covered to 13 prefectures from six including Tokyo. Sixteen other prefectures are currently under quasi-emergency status. The government at a meeting of experts Wednesday proposed upgrading eight prefectures from quasi-emergency status to a full state of emergency. Those prefectures include Hokkaido and Miyagi in the north, Aichi and Gifu in central Japan, and Hiroshima and Okayama in the west. The proposal was expected to be approved and formally announced later Wednesday. Japan's state of emergency relies on requirements for eateries to close at 8 p.m. and not serve alcohol, but the measures are increasingly defied. Unenforceable social distancing and tele-working requests for the public and their employers are also largely ignored due to growing complacency.

#### Ex-Myanmar military leader Than Shwe recovers from COVID-19

**Bangkok (AP)**—The former longtime military ruler of Myanmar, Than Shwe, and his wife have been released from a capital city hospital after both being successfully treated for COVID-19, a hospital official said. The 88-year-old and wife, Daw Kyaing Kyaing, were discharged from the Thaik Chaung military hospital in Naypyitaw on Friday, said the



# Environment

## Volunteer for International Coastal Cleanup on Sept. 18

By IVA MAURIN  
CORRESPONDENT

It's almost September, and in three weeks, we will all be joining the world, yet again, in the International Coastal Cleanup celebration. Mark your calendars and register, as this year, the global cleanup even is set on Sept. 18, Saturday.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is calling on everyone to join in and help. In an interview with Saipan Tribune, the governor stressed the importance of respecting and protecting our oceans.

"It is crucial that we protect our environment," Torres said. "It is what we have, it is what we live for, and it is what gives us our life. ... In farming, you need to have good soil, good water to [get] good produce. Same with our ocean. We need to have a healthy ecosystem in order for us to have good fish, good clams, and all the seafood. ... I remember growing up my dad would always go fishing. That's what we eat in the morning for breakfast, and that's why we try to give that opportunity for our children, to appreciate what we have here in the CNMI."

Unfortunately, garbage that



International Coastal Cleanup volunteers Naomi Billimon, Trinity Camacho, and Miguel Fitipol helped pick up trash at Tank Beach during the 2019 ICC.

IVA MAURIN

end up in the coasts and waters disturb the ecosystem. They cause coral and marine habitat destruction, as well as introduce pollutants to the oceans that could threaten marine species. It can also directly affect us through bioaccumulation, where toxins get built up, gets absorbed and eaten by fishes, which we then also eat.

Last year, over 9,000 lbs of garbage was collected by the International Coastal Cleanup volunteers in the CNMI.

Saipan had 750 volunteers who collected 7,040 lbs of trash in 40 different locations, Tinian had 59 volunteers who collected 887 lbs of trash in 10 different locations, and Rota had 166 volunteers who collected 1,217 lbs of trash, cleaning 26 different locations.

Cigarette butts topped the most collected debris on island at 9,833 pieces, followed by plastic bottle caps at 5,576, and beverage cans at 2,882. Aside from these three, volunteers

also collected 2,388 food wrappers, 1,958 plastic bottles, 1,547 metal bottle caps, 1,339 plastic cutlery, 1,235 straws and stirrers, 984 [other] plastic bags, and 834 plastic grocery bags.

There were also 26,509 microplastics collected, 906 tiny glass pieces, and 705 tiny foam pieces. These are wastes so tiny, they are less than 2.5cm in size, never fully biodegrades, and instead, just breaks down into even smaller pieces that eventually find its

way into the CNMI shores, according to the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality.

"We are very blessed [by the] ocean that we have here," said Torres. "Therefore I ask all the community, please, let's take care of it, let's protect it. At the same time, let's use it for sustainability purposes, teach our children the importance of fishing, as well as protecting the environment."

Last year, the CNMI had 971 volunteers who cleaned up 76 locations all over the island. We can have even more for this year's International

Coastal Cleanup celebration, again, on Sept. 18, Saturday.

To register your group, or as an individual volunteer, contact ICC coordinators Colleen Flores at cflores@dcrn.gov.mp or (670) 664-8300/8316 (for Saipan); Edwin Hofschneider at ehofschneider@dcrn.gov.mp or (670) 433-3169 (for Tinian); or William (Bill) Pendergrass at wpendergrass@dcrn.gov.mp or (670) 532-0466.

For more information on the International Coastal Cleanup, visit <https://dcrn.gov.mp/our-programs/education-and-outreach/international-coastal-cleanup/>.



Mark your calendars and register to volunteer for this year's International Coastal Cleanup celebration on Sept. 18, Saturday.

IVA MAURIN

## Guam Green Growth launches G3 Conservation Corps

What do a retired corrections officer, a former journalist, a teacher, and an indigenous artist have in common? They are all part of the first cohort of G3 Conservation Corps members of the Guam Green Growth, or G3, initiative.

The University of Guam announced the 12 members of the G3 Conservation Corps at a program orientation last June at UOG. Following the orientation, the group participated in its first village cleanup in Mangilao.

In May, the university embarked on an islandwide recruitment process for the program. The program received hundreds of applicants, and 12 were selected through a comprehensive review process for the five-month program.

From June to November, the G3 Conservation Corps members will participate in workforce development training and activities focused on island beautification, circular economy and recycling, invasive species removal, energy efficiency, and agriculture and aquaculture.

At the orientation, UOG Center for Island Sustainability Director Austin Shelton said the program is aligned with

the current island-wide efforts to achieve sustainability and other United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

"This is one of our implementation projects for the overall Guam Green Growth initiative, which was estab-

lished in 2019 in partnership with the Office of the Governor and the University of Guam to implement—in locally and culturally effective ways—the 17 U.N. Sustainable Development Goals. This G3 Conservation Corps

program is meant to prepare our community for the emerging green economy. Sustainability is an important component that we want to make sure is part of the conversation and the action for the economic diversification

of our island," Shelton said.

Lusech Ngirakesau, a recent UOG business administration graduate and G3 Conservation Corps member, said the program would benefit Small-Island Developing States, or SIDS. Coming from Palau, a small island nation, he said he sees the

importance of the program for participants to acquire skills and develop a sustainability mindset.

Madeline Bradley, the youngest G3 Conservation Corps member at age 18, said the program is an amazing start to promote sustainable action. **(PR)**



The first members selected for the G3 Conservation Corps, a five-month workforce development training program focused on sustainability, at their orientation last June 23. Back row, from left, Madeline Bradley, Daniel Stone, Jackie Jones, Kevin Wong, Lusech Ngirakesau, and Claudia Rosario. Front row, from left, Alana Chargualaf, Abby Crain, Kaya Taitano, Ed Dali, and Joseph Certeza.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM



# Life & Style

## Drummer Charlie Watts, Rolling Stones backbone, dies at 80

**LONDON** (AP)—Charlie Watts, the self-effacing and unshakeable Rolling Stones drummer who helped anchor one of rock’s greatest rhythm sections and used his “day job” to support his enduring love of jazz, has died, according to his publicist. He was 80.

Bernard Doherty said Tuesday that Watts “passed away peacefully in a London hospital earlier today surrounded by his family.”

“Charlie was a cherished husband, father and grandfather and also as a member of The Rolling Stones one of the greatest drummers of his generation,” Doherty said.

Watts had announced he would not tour with the Stones in 2021 because of an undefined health issue.

The quiet, elegantly dressed Watts was often ranked with Keith Moon, Ginger Baker and a handful of others as a premier rock drummer, respected worldwide for his muscular, swinging style as the Stones rose from their scruffy beginnings to international superstardom. He joined the band early in 1963 and remained for nearly 60 years, ranked just behind Mick Jagger and Keith Richards as the group’s longest lasting and most essential member.

Watts stayed on, and largely held himself apart, through the drug abuse, creative clashes and ego wars that helped kill founding member Brian Jones, drove bassist Bill Wyman and Jones’ replacement Mick Taylor to quit and otherwise made being in the Stones a most exhausting job.

A classic Stones song like “Brown Sugar” and “Start Me Up” often began with a hard guitar riff from Richards, with Watts following closely behind, and Wyman, as the bassist liked to say, “fattening the sound.”



Watts

### DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren  
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



## Woman plants thick roots in married son’s home

**DEAR ABBY:** Ten years ago, my friend “Maureen” suffered a breakup that emotionally and financially devastated her and moved in with her son and his young family. Since then, she has recovered in both areas.

Maureen inserts herself into every aspect of their lives—vacations, entertaining, etc. When they go out to eat, she always joins them. Her daughter-in-law, “Eve,” has routinely given her hints that it’s time to move on. Maureen then goes to her son and tells him what Eve said, and it causes problems in their marriage. After dinner each night, Eve goes into her room, closes the door and stays there.

Maureen is capable of living on her own, but she said she might get lonely and that’s why she won’t leave. The grandkids are pretty much grown now, and there’s no need for Maureen to stay. Her friends have been encouraging her to make a life of her own. Eve and her husband plan to move out of state in 10 years, and Maureen plans on moving with them. I think she is putting her son’s marriage at risk for her own selfish reason. Maureen isn’t old and infirm. She could possibly meet a nice gentleman if she moved out. All her friends have suggested this. What are your thoughts?

BYSTANDER IN FLORIDA

**DEAR BYSTANDER:** If Maureen were unwell or destitute, the situation would be different. She is neither. My thoughts are that until Eve is angry enough to assert herself and tell her husband the current living conditions are intolerable, nothing will change.

■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** I recently had to say goodbye to my precious dog, Wendy Darling. She was a sweet old girl with bad kidneys and severe joint pain. During the last few weeks of her life, she could barely eat, and not at all in the last days. I know in my head that ending her suffering was the right thing to do. I have supported friends and family who helped their pets this way.

It’s my heart that is having trouble. I keep thinking that I didn’t have the right to make that decision; that life is too precious to deliberately steal even a single day. While her body was declining, her mind and spirit danced, and she looked at me with complete trust. I miss her so much and find myself crying throughout the day. Can you tell me how to reconcile my head and my heart? I have this huge weight on my chest and more than a little bit of guilt.

MISSING WENDY IN OREGON

**DEAR MISSING WENDY:** Please accept my sympathy for the loss of your precious canine companion. You gave Wendy Darling a wonderful life, filled with love. Dogs were meant to run and play, to love and be loved, not to suffer. I am sure you miss her, but please stop beating yourself up for making a rational decision about what was best for her. If your grief continues to overwhelm you, talk with your veterinarian about joining a grief support group. I am sure he or she will reassure you. Your loss is recent. That you are emotional is understandable. Try to remember that tears are healing.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order “How to Have a Lovely Wedding.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

*In Humble Gratitude*

# †JOAQUIN QUINENE CRUZ

LOVINGLY CALLED “JACK” OR “KIN”

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, smile, kind word, listening ear, or the smallest act of kindness and care. On August 1, 2021, our Creator welcomed my beloved husband †Joaquin Quinene Cruz to his new home in Paradise.

I would like to express my most humble gratitude and appreciation to †Jack's doctors and nurses at Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation for the kindness and unending care given to him.

A heartfelt thank you to Father Jesse T. Reyes and Father Jason Granado, members of the clergy and deacons for all your prayers, guidance, visits, and services. Also to the CNMI Veteran's Affairs Office for honoring my husband's military service.

I feel really blessed and honored to have loving and supportive family and friends who joined us during the daily masses, funeral, and responso and comforted me with their support as I endured the loss of my husband. Especially, our siblings and their families (The Quinene Cruz family in Guam and USA and The Villagomez Deleon Guerrero (Apa) family).

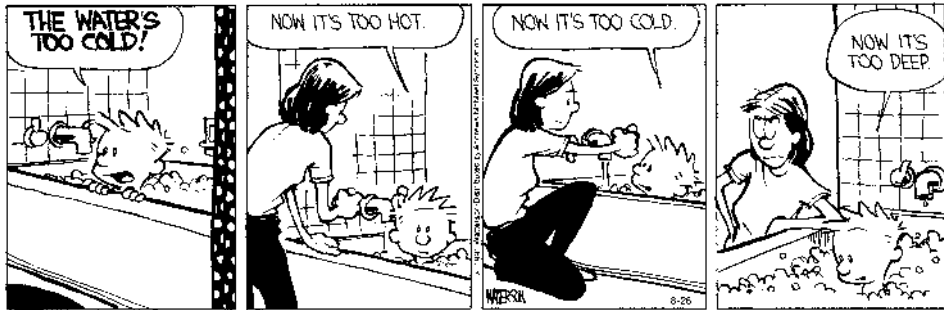
With gratitude, *Edith Deleon Guerrero Cruz* (APA)



# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



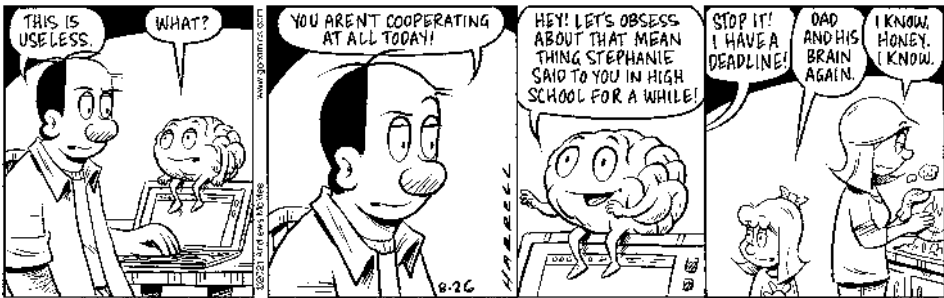
## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Rip

5 Gun the engine

8 Whirled

12 French 101

13 Brit. record label

14 Wine (Pref.)

15 Greek vowels

16 Anonymous Jane

17 — of honor

18 California beach city

20 Kicks off

22 Moment

23 Crunchy sandwich

24 Bygone days

27 Weakened

32 College URL

33 Modern, to Mann

**DOWN**

1 Abound

2 Jazzy

3 Asia's — Sea

4 Defy

5 Marking down

6 Comic Phillips

7 Competes

8 Mogadishu

9 Partridge's place

10 Squad

11 Agrees silently

19 Exist

21 TV schedule abbr.

24 Part of MPH

25 Citric beverage

26 Khartoum residents

28 "Not impressed"

29 Busied oneself

30 Sushi fish

31 Tierra — Fuego

36 Andean animals

37 Under the weather

38 He loved Roxane

41 "That's a laugh!"

42 Nile vipers

43 Tidy

44 Luminary

46 Walked (on)

47 Top dog

48 Thanks-giving veggies

51 Lawyers' gp.

**Solution time: 24 mins.**

Yesterday's answer 8-26

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Charlie Gillespie, 23; Keke Palmer, 28; Macaulay Culkin, 41; Melissa McCarthy, 51.

**Happy Birthday:** Gravitate toward what's doable this year instead of trying to do the impossible. Look for opportunities, and bring about change that is productive and tied to your long-term goals. Speak up, and consider taking a unique approach to how you earn your living, handle your cash and deal with important partnerships. Channel your energy to bring the highest returns. Your number are 4, 17, 21, 24, 32, 36, 43.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** You don't have to stand alone. Call on people you enjoy collaborating with, and you'll come up with a plan that will help you achieve your objective. An opportunity will come your way if you reach out to someone well-connected. \*\*\*

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Take advantage of an opportunity that can improve your position or help you find common ground with someone who thinks differently. You'll be able to convince others to do things your way. An energetic approach to accomplishing your goals will pay off. \*\*\*

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Turn your attention to creative endeavors and away from anyone meddling in your affairs. The less chatty you are, the easier it will be to avoid interference. Don't accommodate someone looking to start a fight. Walk away from conflict. \*\*\*\*

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Leave nothing to chance. A risk will put you in harm's way. When faced with uncertain-

ty, let your intuition guide you toward safe ground and away from anyone who isn't respectful of others. Don't hesitate to share your thoughts. \*\*

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Note how others respond to you and what you can do to enhance relationships with friends and family. Make updates that help you remain up-to-date physically, emotionally and spiritually. Strive for perfection. Romance is favored. \*\*\*\*\*

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Mix business with pleasure, and you will make headway. The details you incorporate while explaining things to others will help you win favors and draw interest in what you are trying to achieve. High energy and knowledge will pay off. \*\*\*

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Quality time with someone you love or find interesting will open up a passageway to new and exciting experiences. A demonstrative action will make a difference to someone who is waiting for a sign from you. Less talk and more accountability are required. \*\*\*

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Stop spinning your wheels and start putting your plans in motion. If you labor too long over things you cannot change, you'll miss an opportunity to make a difference. Concentrate on what's doable, and you'll feel good about your accomplishments. \*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Don't be so hard on yourself. Focus on what you can do to make your lifestyle sustainable. Refuse to get caught up in someone else's dream. Consider what makes you happy,

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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then head in that direction. Romance will enhance your love life. \*\*\*\*\*

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Get along with others. Someone will view your actions harshly if you upset a friend, relative or one of your colleagues. Pay attention to what's going on at home, and make adjustments that will ease stress and add to your convenience. \*\*

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Put together a budget that will encourage you to save for something unique. How you handle your money will reflect the things you'll be able to enjoy. An opportunity to bring in extra cash looks promising, don't neglect responsibilities. \*\*\*\*

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Get the facts before you share information. Once you clarify what's possible, bring about the changes that will allow you to take advantage of a situation that can make your life better. It's up to you to take responsibility for your happiness. \*\*\*

**Birthday Baby:** You are precise, unprecedented and demonstrative. You are entertaining and magnetic

☾ Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼ You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼☼ Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼☼ Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼☼ Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

|   |   |   |   |  |   |  |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|--|---|--|---|---|
|   | 8 |   |   |  |   |  | 3 |   |
| 9 |   |   | 1 |  | 8 |  |   | 2 |
|   | 1 |   | 6 |  | 3 |  | 9 |   |
|   | 7 | 3 |   |  |   |  | 9 | 8 |
|   |   |   |   |  |   |  |   |   |
|   | 6 | 1 |   |  |   |  | 5 | 2 |
|   | 5 |   | 3 |  | 4 |  | 6 |   |
| 4 |   |   | 8 |  | 7 |  |   | 1 |
|   | 9 |   |   |  |   |  | 4 |   |

Difficulty Level ★★★

8/26

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 1 |
| 8 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 6 |
| 2 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 3 |
| 4 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 9 |
| 1 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 4 |
| 3 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 8 |
| 5 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 7 |
| 9 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 5 |
| 6 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 2 |

Difficulty Level ★★★

## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

MAGAZINE GENRES

Solution: 6 letters

E P P U Z Z L E S S O C I A L  
S C R A R C H I T E C T U R E  
T E O E I N G A G L I N T V F  
E G U N G W S N B C S V I L I  
N A H Q O N I O I Y S D O K N  
R T A N I M A L S C E G T M S  
E I L O R T I N D O N S R T R  
T R C A I N N C C L T A R R  
N E F N C O F A S Y I C D A U  
I H G B R I D A L U F F E V C  
A R T S N G T E E N S C E E T  
R E R A I I R I S E I P O L I  
T A N F E L D O L L S G O D O  
C C T I S E M A G O H A I R N  
E M O H W R S C A M P I N G T

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8/26

Animals, Antiques, Architecture, Arts, Boating, Bridal, Camping, Cars, Cats, Coins, Cycles, Dancing, Dogs, Dolls, Economics, Ethnic, Farming, Finance, Fitness, Food, Games, Gift, Golf, Hair, Heritage, Home, Instruction, Internet, Sales, Movies, Pies, Political, Pregnancy, Puzzles, Religion, Sales, Skin, Social, Sport, Style, Teen, Trace, Train, Travel, Video, Wildlife, Wine

Yesterday's Answer: Chili

The NEW Treasury 43 can be purchased online at  
www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

## STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-6955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.



# Yankees hit 3 HRs, hold off Braves 5-4 for 11th straight win



ATLANTA (AP)—Wandy Peralta

retired Freddie Freeman with the bases loaded for the final out, and the New York Yankees held off the Atlanta Braves 5-4 Tuesday night to extend their longest winning streak in 36 years to 11 games.

DJ LeMahieu's two-run homer in the fifth inning gave New York the lead. Giancarlo Stanton and Rowned Odor also went deep for the Yankees.

New York closer Aroldis Chapman, trying to preserve the lead, gave up two hits and two walks in the ninth. Chapman's bases-loaded walk to Jorge Soler cut the margin to one, and manager Aaron Boone pulled Chapman for Peralta.

The Yankees remained four games behind first-place Tampa Bay in the AL East.

The 11-game winning streak is New York's longest since Aug. 31 to Sept. 10, 1985.

Charlie Morton (12-5) allowed four runs and six hits in five innings. He had nine strikeouts.

Clay Holmes (2-0), the third of six Yankees relievers, earned the win.

## Giants 8, Mets 0

In New York, Brandon Belt hit two of San Francisco's four home runs to push his career-best total to 19 and rookie Sammy Long pitched into the sixth inning in a win over slumping New York.

LaMonte Wade Jr. and Mike Yastrzemski also connected in the first four innings as the Giants jumped to a 7-0 advantage against rookie Tylor Megill (1-3).

Giants catcher Buster Posey was removed with left knee discomfort in the fifth.

Belt ended a 2-for-30 skid with two homers and a single in his first three plate appearances and added an RBI infield single in the eighth for his season-high fourth hit.

Long (2-1) tossed three-hit ball over 5 1/3 innings, striking out four and walking one.

Megill was clobbered for a career-worst seven runs on 11 hits and five walks over 3 2/3 innings.

## Red Sox 11, Twins 9

In Boston, Hunter Renfroe homered twice, the second during a five-run fifth inning that gave Boston a six-run advantage, and the Red Sox beat last-place Minnesota.

Alex Verdugo had three hits, and Renfroe drove in five runs with his 14th career multi-homer game. Kiké Hernández added a two-run homer.

Jorge Polanco hit a two-run homer for Minnesota, and Josh Donaldson added a solo shot in the ninth.

Josh Taylor (1-0) earned the



New York Yankees second baseman Rowned Odor (12) celebrates with Aaron Judge (99) after hitting a solo home run in the seventh inning of a baseball game against the Atlanta Braves Tuesday, Aug. 24, 2021, in Atlanta. AP

win. Ex-Twin Hansel Robles picked up his 11th save — his first for the Red Sox.

Griffin Jax (3-2) allowed nine runs on seven hits and four walks in 4 2/3 innings.

## Rays 3, Phillies 1

In Philadelphia, Nelson Cruz returned from the COVID-19 list, played first base for the first time in his career and hit a tiebreaking two-run double in the eighth inning as Tampa Bay beat Philadelphia.

The 41-year-old Cruz, Tampa Bay's designated hitter who had never played first, handled all his chances cleanly in his first action anywhere on defense since he played right field for Seattle in 2018. He singled in the first and sixth innings before his big hit in the eighth, a line drive off Archie Bradley (7-2) that scored Brett Phillips and Randy Arozarena.

JT Chargois (2-0) struck out the only batter he faced to end the seventh, and Andrew Kitredge worked the last two innings for his third save.

Brandon Lowe also drove in a run for the AL East-leading Rays, who have won seven of eight. Tampa Bay upped its AL-best record to 78-48.

## Rangers 7, Indians 3

In Cleveland, Nathaniel Lowe was 5 for 5 with a three-run homer in the first inning, and Texas beat Cleveland after adding another player to the COVID-19 list.

Lowe homered in the first, singled in the third, seventh and ninth, and doubled in the fifth. DJ Peters also hit a three-run homer in the ninth and drove in four runs.

The win came at an opportune time for the Rangers, who placed catcher Jonah Heim on the COVID-19 list before the game, bringing their total to five players on the list.

Taylor Hearn (3-4) and four

relievers held Cleveland's offense in check. Hearn gave up solo homers to Daniel Johnson in the third and Yu Chang in the fifth.

Eli Morgan (2-6) took the loss.

## Nationals 5, Marlins 1

In Miami, Tres Barrera had three hits, including a homer, and Washington sent Miami to its eighth straight loss.

Yadiel Hernández singled and tripled, while Ryan Zimmerman also went deep for the Nationals.

Erick Fedde (6-8) struck out a career-high 10 in 6 1/3 innings. He allowed one run, six hits and walked one. The Marlins struck out 15 times against Washington.

The Nationals broke a scoreless tie in a three-run fourth against Miami starter Jesús Luzardo (4-7).

Luzardo was lifted after 4 2/3 innings. The left-hander allowed five runs, 10 hits, struck out three and walked one.

## Angels 14, Orioles 8

In Baltimore, Baltimore staggered to its 19th consecutive loss, allowing 19 hits and falling behind Los Angeles by 11 runs early.

Baltimore's streak is the major leagues' longest skid since Kansas City dropped 19 straight in 2005.

After Ryan Mountcastle homered in the first inning for a 1-0 lead, things soured quickly for Baltimore. No. 8 hitter Jo Adell tripled in two runs off rookie Spenser Watkins (2-6) and Juan Lagares followed with a two-run homer.

Every Los Angeles starter got a hit. The Angels went 11 for 19 with runners in scoring position.

Mountcastle had two solo shots for the Orioles, Anthony Santander went 4 for 5 with a homer and three RBIs

and Ramón Urias drove in three runs.

## White Sox 5, Blue Jays 2

In Toronto, Dylan Cease pitched seven effective innings, José Abreu hit a three-run homer and Chicago stopped a three-game slide.

Cease (10-6) retired his first 11 batters, fanning six, before Vladimir Guerrero Jr. lined a single to right in the fourth. Cease allowed one run and four hits. Liam Hendriks earned his 29th save in 35 chances.

Corey Dickerson spoiled Cease's shutout bid with a one-out homer in the seventh, his fifth. Abreu went 3 for 5 with four RBIs.

The White Sox jumped on José Berrios (8-7), taking a 3-0 lead five pitches into the game and scoring four runs on six hits in a nine-batter first.

## Tigers 4, Cardinals 3

In St. Louis, Miguel Cabrera and Robbie Grossman hit back-to-back home runs to lead Detroit to an interleague victory over St. Louis.

Two days after hitting his 500th homer, Cabrera connected on No. 501. At 423 feet, it was his second longest home run this season.

The Cardinals immediately removed Jack Flaherty (9-2) with what the team said was right shoulder tightness. In two innings, Flaherty allowed four runs on four hits with three walks on 46 pitches. He velocity dropped dramatically after the first inning.

Casey Mize (7-6) pitched five scoreless innings. He checked the Cardinals on three hits. Michael Fulmer earned his eighth save by pitching the final 1 1/3 innings.

## Pirates 4, Diamondbacks 2

In Pittsburgh, JT Brubaker

pitched five scoreless innings for his first win in nearly three months, and Pittsburgh beat Arizona.

Brubaker (5-13) allowed four hits with six strikeouts, stranding five runners in scoring position. Since last winning May 29, Brubaker went 0-9 with a 7.08 ERA in 12 starts. Chris Stratton picked up his second save.

Madison Bumgarner (7-8) allowed four runs on six hits in six innings. Ketel Marte hit a two-run homer for Arizona.

Michael Chavis homered in his second game with the Pirates. Anthony Alford added a two-run shot, and Bryan Reynolds pushed another run across with sacrifice fly.

## Mariners 5, Athletics 1

In Oakland, Calif., Luis Torrens hit a tiebreaking two-run single, Chris Flexen pitched into the seventh inning and Seattle swept a two-game series against Oakland.

The A's managed three straight singles in the first against Flexen (11-5), who struck out five over 6 2/3 innings. He allowed six hits and walked one.

Mitch Moreland hit an RBI single for Oakland in the first before Jarred Kelenic tied it at 1 with a single of his own in the second. Kelenic also doubled home Tom Murphy in the eighth and scored on Dylan Moore's single.

Drew Steckenrider earned his sixth save.

A's lefty Cole Irvin (9-12) was done after three innings, tagged for three runs and seven hits with two walks.

## Brewers 7, Reds 4

In Milwaukee, Omar Narváez hit a tiebreaking double in a four-run seventh inning, Kolten Wong added a two-run homer in the eighth and the Milwaukee Brewers rallied

past the Cincinnati Reds 7-4 on Tuesday night.

Milwaukee shortstop Willy Adames exited early with a leg injury, but the first-place Brewers hit a trio of sacrifice flies to win the opener of a three-game series between the top two teams in the NL Central.

They increased their division lead to 8 1/2 games over Cincinnati, which remained a game ahead of the Padres for the second NL wild card. San Diego lost 5-2 to the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Hunter Strickland (3-1) pitched a scoreless inning in relief of starter Corbin Burnes to help Milwaukee win for the 11th time in 14 games. Josh Hader earned his 27th save in 28 chances.

## Dodgers 5, Padres 2

In San Diego, AJ Pollock hit a two-run single and robbed Manny Machado of a two-run homer to lead the Los Angeles Dodgers past the sinking San Diego Padres 5-2 on Tuesday night in a series opener between NL West rivals headed in opposite directions.

"Since the break, AJ has played as good as anybody," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said. "He has just been a really good player. He has been one of our most consistent performers in the second half."

Will Smith homered for Los Angeles, and Julio Urias (14-3) allowed one hit over five scoreless innings in his return from the injured list to match Chicago Cubs right-hander Kyle Hendricks for most wins in the majors.

"I felt really good," Urias said through a translator. "I followed the game plan."

The surging Dodgers, who have won 10 of 11, stayed 2 1/2 games behind first-place San Francisco in the NL West.

## Astros 4, Royals 0

In Houston, Luis Garcia pitched into the seventh inning and two relievers completed a four-hitter to lead the Houston Astros over the Kansas City Royals 4-0 on Tuesday night.

Garcia (10-6) struck out seven and scattered four hits across 6 2/3 sharp innings.

"He was very, very aggressive in the strike zone," Astros manager Dusty Baker said. "He was masterful."

Ryne Stanek got the next four outs before Kendall Graveman worked a perfect ninth. Houston increased its AL West lead to 4 1/2 games over Oakland, which has lost four straight.

Carlos Correa had two hits and two RBIs to help the Astros snap a two-game skid and improve to 2-4 against the Royals this season after dropping Monday's series opener 7-1. Houston lost three of four in Kansas City last week.



# Biden praises WNBA champs for social justice activism



**WASHINGTON** (AP)—President Joe Biden honored the 2020 WNBA champions Seattle Storm on Monday, celebrating their success on the court and hailing the four-time title holders for changing lives with their activism.

The visit marked the first time that an NBA or WNBA team has visited the White House since the Cleveland Cavaliers were feted by Barack Obama in 2016.

Presidents typically host college and major league sports champions for a White House ceremony. But the two big basketball leagues skipped such celebrations during Donald Trump's administration as several prominent players and coaches were outspoken about their opposition to Trump's rhetoric and policies.

Biden marveled at the team and its feats on the court. The team includes three players who won gold medals as part of Team USA's women's basketball team at this summer's Olympic games—Sue Bird, Jewell Lloyd and Breanna Stewart. The three presented Biden with a souvenir Storm jersey.

Biden also took a moment to note team members' efforts to spotlight the issue of police brutality in Black communities, promote voter registration, speak out about violence against transgendered people and encourage Americans to get vaccinated.

"What makes this team remarkable is they don't just win games, they change lives," Biden said. "That's what win-



President Joe Biden, left, poses for a photo with Seattle Storm's Jewell Lloyd, center, and Breanna Stewart, right, during an event in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Monday, Aug. 23, 2021, to celebrate their 2020 WNBA Championship. AP

ners do. They shine the light and lift people up. They're a force for change. That's the Seattle Storm, that's the WNBA."

Storm co-owner Ginny Gilder also praised the team's activism and noted WNBA players' efforts last year on behalf of Democrats Raphael

Warnock and Jon Ossoff in their winning Senate campaigns in Georgia.

Warnock defeated Republican Sen. Kelly Loeffler, co-owner of the Atlanta Dream. Loeffler, an ally of Trump, came under criticism from WNBA players for attacks on the Black Lives Matter move-

ment. Loeffler and her fellow owners sold the team this year.

"It feels good to be back in this place and have our achievements celebrated in this way," Stewart said in brief remarks at the ceremony.

Before the visit, Bird said that with Trump out of office, she was happy to visit the

White House "now that it's back in a place where it's considered an honor."

Many WNBA players, including Bird, have been outspoken in their embrace of social justice movements such as Black Lives Matter, which Trump characterized as a violent, radical ideology. Trump was also critical of Bird's fiancée, U.S. soccer star Megan Rapinoe.

"I think for a very long time, up until 2016, going to the White House was an honor — it wasn't necessarily political," Bird said before the visit. "It was to meet the president of the United States. The person who holds that office acknowledging your team's success."

During his campaigns and presidency, Trump got in several public spats with prominent athletes and coaches who have sought to use their celebrity to spotlight social justice and other issues.

Trump lashed out at Stephen Curry and his Golden State Warrior teammates in 2017 after they declined the customary White House invitation. The Republican also has repeatedly feuded with Lakers' star LeBron James, who was an outspoken critic of Trump and endorsed Hillary Clinton and Biden's White House runs.

## NBA champion Bucks sign Budenholzer to contract extension



**MILWAUKEE** (AP)—Milwaukee Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer has received a contract extension after guiding the team to its first NBA title in a half-century.

The Bucks announced Tuesday night they had signed Budenholzer to an extension. Details weren't disclosed.

"What an incredible journey we've been on and winning the NBA championship this season makes us appreciate how difficult it is to win and how grateful we are to have the best players and coaches in place to get the job done," Bucks owners Marc Lasry, Wes Edens and Jamie Dinan said in a statement. "Mike's strong leadership, coaching expertise, commitment to player development, and adaptability have been instrumental as we work together to compete for and win championships."

The Bucks won their first championship since 1971 by beating the Phoenix Suns 4-2 in the NBA Finals.

Milwaukee erased 2-0 deficits against the Brooklyn Nets in the Eastern Conference semifinals and against Phoenix in the league finals. The



In this Feb. 18, 2021, file photo, Milwaukee Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer reacts to a call during the second half of the team's NBA basketball game against the Toronto Raptors in Milwaukee. AP

Bucks beat the Atlanta Hawks in the Eastern Conference finals after losing the opening game in that series.

The Bucks have posted an NBA-best 162-65 regular-season record since Budenholzer took over in 2018. Budenholzer was named the NBA Coach of the Year for the 2018-19 season.

Milwaukee posted the league's top regular-season mark in 2018-19 and 2019-20. The Bucks lost to the Toronto Raptors in the 2019 Eastern Conference finals and fell to the Miami Heat in

the 2020 Eastern Conference semifinals.

The Bucks have led the NBA in scoring each of the last three seasons.

"Bud is a great coach and a fantastic partner to work with every day as we build a team that consistently competes for championships," general manager Jon Horst said in a statement. "We're extremely grateful for the leadership Bud provides and we look forward to building on the success we've had over the last three years and congratulate Bud on this well-deserved extension."



Dallas Mavericks guard Josh Richardson goes up against Minnesota Timberwolves center Karl Anthony-Towns in their game last February 2021. AP

### Celtics sign Williams, Richardson to contract extensions

**BOSTON** (AP)—The Celtics have signed center Robert Williams III and guard Josh Richardson to contract extensions, the latest in a flurry of moves by Boston as it tries to shore up its roster before training camp.

"Rob has worked hard to turn himself into a very impactful player, and his talent and selfless play give him an even higher upside to reach going forward," Celtics President of Basketball Operations Brad Stevens said in a statement Tuesday. "Rob has embraced being a Celtic from Day 1. He is a great teammate and is completely committed to getting better. We're excited that he will continue to do so here in Boston."

ESPN reported that Williams' deal is for \$54 million

over four years. A first-round selection in 2018, Williams appeared in a career-high 52 games with 13 starts last season, averaging a career highs in points (8.0 ppg), rebounds (6.9 rpg), assists (1.8 apg), steals (0.8 spg), blocked shots (1.8 bpg) and minutes (18.9 mpg).

The 23-year-old Williams gives Boston stability in the middle and a coveted rim defender, which he flourished as in his third NBA season.

Acquired in a trade with Dallas last month, the 27-year-old Richardson saw his offensive numbers dip last season with the Mavericks, but he is just two seasons removed from averaging a career-high 16.6 points with Miami in 2018-19.

"We feel fortunate to be

able to extend Josh," Stevens said. "He is a talented offensive player, a versatile defender, and plays with an edge and toughness that Boston fans will love."

The deals for Williams and Richardson come days after the Celtics announced a contract extension for veteran guard Marcus Smart, which is for a reported four years and \$77 million. The team also signed point guard Dennis Schröder earlier this month to a one-year, \$5.9 million deal.

The hope is that all four players, along with the return of big man Al Horford, can help fortify the roster behind All-Stars Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown in Ime Udoka's first season taking over for Stevens as coach.



**TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES**
**MLB STANDINGS**
**AMERICAN LEAGUE**
**East Division**

|           | W  | L  | Pct  | GB |
|-----------|----|----|------|----|
| Tampa Bay | 78 | 48 | .619 | —  |
| New York  | 74 | 52 | .587 | 4  |
| Boston    | 72 | 55 | .567 | 6½ |
| Toronto   | 65 | 59 | .524 | 12 |
| Baltimore | 38 | 86 | .306 | 39 |

**Central Division**

|             |    |    |      |    |
|-------------|----|----|------|----|
| Chicago     | 73 | 54 | .575 | —  |
| Cleveland   | 61 | 62 | .496 | 10 |
| Detroit     | 61 | 66 | .480 | 12 |
| Kansas City | 56 | 69 | .448 | 16 |
| Minnesota   | 54 | 71 | .432 | 18 |

**West Division**

|             |    |    |      |     |
|-------------|----|----|------|-----|
| Houston     | 74 | 52 | .587 | —   |
| Oakland     | 70 | 57 | .551 | 4½  |
| Seattle     | 69 | 58 | .543 | 5½  |
| Los Angeles | 63 | 64 | .496 | 11½ |
| Texas       | 44 | 81 | .352 | 29½ |

**NATIONAL LEAGUE**
**East Division**

|              |    |    |      |    |
|--------------|----|----|------|----|
| Atlanta      | 68 | 58 | .540 | —  |
| Philadelphia | 63 | 62 | .504 | 4½ |
| New York     | 61 | 64 | .488 | 6½ |
| Washington   | 54 | 70 | .435 | 13 |
| Miami        | 51 | 75 | .405 | 17 |

**Central Division**

|            |    |    |      |     |
|------------|----|----|------|-----|
| Milwaukee  | 77 | 49 | .611 | —   |
| Cincinnati | 69 | 58 | .543 | 8½  |
| St. Louis  | 63 | 61 | .508 | 13  |
| Chicago    | 55 | 72 | .433 | 22½ |
| Pittsburgh | 46 | 80 | .365 | 31  |

**West Division**

|               |    |    |      |    |
|---------------|----|----|------|----|
| San Francisco | 81 | 44 | .648 | —  |
| Los Angeles   | 79 | 47 | .627 | 2½ |
| San Diego     | 68 | 59 | .535 | 14 |
| Colorado      | 57 | 68 | .456 | 24 |
| Arizona       | 42 | 85 | .331 | 40 |

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**LOCAL SCORES**
**MARIANAS SOCCER LEAGUE STANDINGS**  
(As of Aug. 23, 2021)

**MSL**

|             | GP | W | D | L | GF | GA  | GD | PTS |
|-------------|----|---|---|---|----|-----|----|-----|
| Paire       | 4  | 4 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 3   | 11 | 12  |
| NMI U18     | 3  | 3 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 1   | 13 | 9   |
| TanHoldings | 3  | 2 | 0 | 1 | 9  | 5   | 4  | 6   |
| MP United   | 4  | 1 | 0 | 3 | 10 | -7  | 3  | 3   |
| Kanaka      | 4  | 1 | 0 | 3 | 8  | -8  | 3  | 3   |
| Old B Bank  | 4  | 0 | 0 | 4 | 2  | -13 | 0  | 0   |

**MSL2**

|                  | GP | W | D | L | GF | GA | GD | PTS |
|------------------|----|---|---|---|----|----|----|-----|
| Saipan United    | 4  | 3 | 0 | 1 | 17 | 11 | 6  | 9   |
| Bangladesh Youth | 4  | 2 | 2 | 0 | 8  | 4  | 4  | 8   |
| Matansa          | 3  | 2 | 0 | 1 | 8  | 9  | -1 | 6   |
| NMI WNT          | 3  | 1 | 2 | 0 | 7  | 5  | 2  | 5   |
| The One FC       | 4  | 1 | 2 | 1 | 8  | 10 | -2 | 5   |
| Bangladesh FC    | 5  | 1 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 11 | -1 | 4   |
| Island Star      | 4  | 1 | 1 | 2 | 6  | 9  | -3 | 4   |
| Shirley's FC     | 5  | 1 | 0 | 4 | 10 | 15 | -5 | 3   |

# 18 'competitive' teams ready to play ball



In this 2019 file photo, the Blue Jays' Jordan Babauta is at bat during their game against the Braves in a slow-pitch softball league at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

By **MARK RABAGO**  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR



A total of 18 teams will duke it out for royalty when the King of the Diamond Labor Day Softball Tournament kicks off this Sunday at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.

Roil Soil Marketing owner Shayne Villanueva said the 18 teams are Tokahão, Team Asahi, Olei Prim, Alapatiw, Angels, Mwewmwekkid, Kliq, Homies, Pues OK 4 Nate, Comets, Titang, Blazers, Saipal, SUFA,

Sofa King Good, Corn Boys, Peneinei, and T Mac 91.

"We have 18 total teams and all are very competitive," he said.

Aside from the actual softball games, a home run derby and a cornhole tournament will also be held. According to the internet, cornhole is a lawn game wherein players take turns throwing 16-ounce bags of corn kernels at a raised board with a hole in the far end. A bag in the hole scores 3 points, while one on the board scores 1 point. Play continues until a team or player reaches

or exceeds the score of 21.

"We have 20 [participants] for cornhole and 20 [participants] for the home run derby," said Villanueva.

Prizes for the King of the Diamond Labor Day Softball Tournament is \$1,000 plus a set of 12 uniforms for first place, \$750 for second place, \$500 for third place, and \$350 for fourth place. It is sponsored by Budweiser, AllStar Sporting Goods, Power 99, and *Marianas Variety*. For more information, call Ikluk Masayos at 287-7979 or Villanueva at 285-4269.

## Newton on track to return to practice after testing mishap


**FOXBOROUGH, Mass.**

(AP)—New England Patriots coach Bill Belichick said Tuesday he expects Cam Newton to return to the field this week for the second day of joint practices with the Giants after the quarterback missed a second day of practice because of a misunderstanding of COVID-19 testing rules.

Newton is under an NFL-mandated five-day reentry process for unvaccinated players after traveling to a team-approved, out-of-town medical appointment over the weekend.

The Patriots issued a statement Monday about the trip, saying the quarterback had tested negative daily for COVID-19 while he was away but had misconstrued the pro-

ocols about tests conducted away from NFL facilities.

Newton's absences Monday and Tuesday were his first of training camp. Belichick confirmed he would be eligible to return to workouts on Thursday. He declined to say if he expected Newton to play in Sunday's exhibition finale against the Giants.

According to NFL and NFL Players Association protocols, only unvaccinated players are subject to the five-day reentry period that requires daily testing. Fully vaccinated players are required to get tested once every 14 days.

Asked if this incident would affect how he handles the quarterback position this season, Belichick said his only concern was adhering to the protocols.

"The league rules are the

league rules and we'll keep complying with them," he said. "Whatever they are, they are."

But Belichick did acknowledge that Newton's unavailability would give rookie quarterback Mac Jones an increased opportunity while Newton was missing practice.

Newton started 15 games in his first season in New England and was re-signed to a one-year deal in the off-season. But Belichick still used a first-round draft pick on a quarterback for the first time during his Patriots tenure on Jones.

"Our entire team has opportunities every day, all through the week and against the Giants in the game," Belichick said. "I hope we can all take advantage of those opportunities."

**SIGNING, CUTS**

The Patriots claimed tight end Kahale Warring off waivers from the Houston Texans. They also announced they had released defensive back Malik Gant, long snapper Brian Khoury, linebacker Cassh Maluia, offensive lineman R.J. Prince and receiver Devin Ross to reach Tuesday's mandatory cutdown to 80 players.

In addition, offensive lineman Marcus Martin was placed on injured reserve.

**FOND MEMORIES**

Giants coach Joe Judge returns to Foxborough on Wednesday to begin two days of joint practice with the Patriots. But for special teams stalwart Matt Slater, it won't just be a reunion with his former position coach.

It will be a chance to catch up with one of the coaches he

says has impacted his NFL career the most.

Judge was a special teams assistant in New England from 2012 to 2014, before serving as special teams coordinator from 2015 to 2019. During that time, Slater earned seven Pro Bowl selections and was an All-Pro twice.

"I think Joe gave me a lot of belief in myself. I think early in my career I didn't have a ton of belief in myself as a player," Slater said. "I struggled. I think (former special teams assistant) Scott O'Brien and Joe Judge both did a great job of instilling belief in me. Challenging me in ways that I didn't like at times but it made me better.

And just coaching me hard. No matter what I did, no matter how well I played, how poorly I played. They always challenged me."

**MATANSA**

From Page 20

Shirley's in the lead and after Linden knotted the count for the first time four minutes later, Xin Wen Jin regained the lead for their team when he found the back of the net in the 19th minute. The see-

saw battle between Shirley's and Matansa continued, but the latter had the last say, thanks to Moe's PK.

In other results in the MSL2, Bangladesh FC broke into the win column after topping The One FC last Sunday, 5-2.

Bangladesh FC, which came from a sorry 2-3 loss

to Saipan United in Week 4, this time got the elusive victory when three of its players scored last weekend.

Rakib Hassan fired three goals for Bangladesh FC, while Abdul Luvlu Shahanezaw and Md. Sohel Akanda chipped in one apiece.

Hassan made his twin

goals in the first half (sixth and 26th minute), while Shahanezaw got his in the eighth minute for Bangladesh FC's 3-1 halftime lead. Timothy Tawanpiy tallied the lone goal for The One FC in the first half (second minute) and also handed the squad its second and last (67th).

Hassan, on the other hand, completed his hat trick in the 47th minute, while Akanda closed out for Bangladesh FC in the 60th.

Meanwhile, Paire FC and the NMI Boys U18 National Team both defeated MP United FC in similar scores, 3-0. The NMI U18 first blanked

MP United last Thursday, while Paire notched the easy win last Sunday.

Paire remains on top of the MSL standings with its 4-0-0 win-draw-loss record, while the NMI U18 is lurking at second place, as the squad is also undefeated after three games.

**FITIAL**

From Page 20

The KO victory was the third straight win for Cleveland, who improved to a professional MMA win-loss record of 22-13 with 1 no-contest.

"It's been a solid turn-

around for the 11-year veteran who went a disappointing 1-4 in two seasons with the Professional Fighters League, failing to advance to the playoffs each time and twice ending up on the wrong end of a Vinny Magalhaes highlight-reel submission," www.mmafighting.com added.

The 6'3" Cleveland hails from Dayton, Texas and came into the fight weighing 205 lbs. He represented Des Moines MMA Academy/Glory MMA & Fitness.

The 37-year-old Fitial came into the fight weighing 253 lbs and it was the second straight knockout loss

of Fitial. Before the Cleveland fight, he last fought professionally in March 2019 in Hex Fight Series 18 in Melbourne, Australia where he was knocked out in the opening round by Australia's Benjamin Sosoli.

He specifically flew to the U.S. mainland for training

camp under Raymond Diaz and fought under the Blue Blood Muay Thai/Four Seasons Martial Arts Gym.

Next up for Fitial is the pro heavyweight fight against Chandler Cole in Showcase MMA's Checkmate set for Sept. 3 at the Meadowview Convention Center in King-

sport, Tennessee.

Fighting out of Wise County Combat Club, the 5'10" Cole is currently the No. 1 ranked professional MMA heavyweight in Tennessee and sixth ranked in the U.S. Southeast. In the country, he is the 28th ranked pro heavyweight in the sport of MMA.

**8 TEAMS**

From Page 20

ing But Net, and The Big Ducks 2.0.

Skr Skr is made up of captain Bobby Bao, Bill Li, Alex Liang, Peter Hu, Timothy Yu, Lynn Zhao, Hannah Yan, Ruth Sun, and David Zhao. Comprising New Kids on the Block are captain Tony Liang, Jiahang Wu, T.J. Saures, Sui Yi, Irene Gan, Ruth Zhang, and Joseph Pangelinan.

Old School includes captain Mei Renguil, Yohei Iwashita, Nak Nakashima, Ryan Camacho, Typhoon Saito, Ko Kumuch, Mike Omar, Ana Ina, and Nakashima Atalig.

Ashes players are captain Jason Cao, Samuel He, Solomon Hu, Steve Qiu, Allen Luo, Joseph Li, Zoe Tang, Angel Ren, Emma Pang, and Abraham Zhu. Steven Balakrishnan is the skipper for Team Fresh Approach that is also made up of Nilo

Calimag, John Matias, Bryan Chlarson, Jerry Saures, Jasper Perez, Iszel Estevez, Kat Saures, Jerome Manzon, and Alysa Baquilles.

Agape's Yang Gang is led by captain En Yang Pang himself and also has David Zheng, Elim Huang, Antonio Li, Caleb Dai, Sally Wu, Cherry Liu, Eason Tang, and Hudson Tan as players.

The Marc Danga-captained Nothing But Net has players Vutherson Arachchige,

Richard Waldo, Jermaine Salas, Archie Velasco Jr., Jackilynn Sanchez, Jia Hao, Chen Miley Salas, and Jigger Paragaon, while Big Ducks 2.0 will have Richard Steele as its skipper with Fiona Bucalig, Jeremiah Diaz, Kaia Travilla, Merrick Toves, Sam Ryu, Maury Zon Tybaco, and Fatima Monterubio.

Pang said he's looking forward to the co-ed tournament Agape Christian School is organizing that starts tonight.

"We're definitely excited for this competition. We're trying to organize something for the community so that they can come out and enjoy the sport we all love. We have many teams that are largely comprised of teenagers, so it's good that amongst the youth, volleyball popularity is growing," he said.

He earlier said that the competition is open to volleyball players 14 years old or older and teams can have as much

as 10 players with two female players suiting up inside the court at all times. The competition will also be using the men's net height during the duration of the tournament.

For more information about the Back-to-School Co-ed Volleyball Tournament, email Pang at fastswimmer4saipan@gmail.com or Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association board member Shawn Davis at smd4839505@gmail.com.





**18 'competitive' teams ready to play ball**

**PAGE 17**

# Saipan Tribune Sports



**Yankees hit 3 HRs, hold off Braves 5-4 for 11th straight win**

**PAGE 19**

**20** THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 2021

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Back-to-back for Matansa

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

**M**atansa Football Club notched its second straight win after nosing out Shirley's Football Club, 4-3, in their match in the Marianas Soccer League 2 Summer Season last Friday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Zaw Moe delivered the game-winner, as he knocked in a penalty shot in the 70th minute or just two minutes after Shirley's also converted a PK, courtesy of Jin Guang Zhi, to tie the game.

Matansa's tough win over Shirley's came after the former shut down Island Star, 2-0, in Week 4 of the league. Matansa opened the season with a 2-6 loss at the hands of division leader Saipan United.

Matansa moved up to the third spot in the team standings of the eight-team field,



while Shirley's remains at the cellar, as it has only one victory so far and has lost four matches.

Besides Moe, Miles Linden and Jhun Tenorio also contributed in Matansa's second win. Linden had a pair of goals with his first recorded in the 10th minute and the second in the 39th. Tenorio scored his goal in the 37th minute to force the second deadlock in the game.

Earlier in the sixth minute, Jeremiah Benavente put

**See MATANSA on Page 19**



Matansa Football Club's Juhn Tenorio, seen here receiving a pass from his teammate during an earlier game against Island Star, scored in their 4-3 win over Shirley's Football Club in the Marianas Soccer League2 Summer Season last Friday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

# Fitia! KO'd in 1st round

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitia! was knocked out with just 12 seconds left in the first round by Rakim Cleveland in their pro heavyweight title bout in B2 Fighting Series 132 last Saturday, Aug. 21, in Shepherdsville, Kentucky.

According to [www.mmfighting.com](http://www.mmfighting.com), Cleveland won the vacant heavyweight title with a "thudding first-round head kick knockout of Fitia!."

*Saipan Tribune* reached out to Fitia! after his shocking loss to Cleveland and he assured everyone back home that he's alright. "I'm good brother," was his terse reply.

As per [www.mmfighting.com](http://www.mmfighting.com), Cleveland unleashed the nasty left high kick as Fitia! attempted to walk him down, landing clean on Fitia!'s head and generating a loud smack.

"The KO blow left Fitia! out cold and gave Cleveland plenty of time to celebrate, which he did with a body-shaking dance," the mixed martial arts website was quoted as reporting.



Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitia!, left, and Rakim Cleveland, right, await the announcement of the winner in their pro heavyweight title bout in B2 Fighting Series 132 last Saturday, Aug. 21, in Shepherdsville, Kentucky in this screen grab from YouTube.

WWW.YOUTUBE.COM

In a YouTube upload of the fight, the Fitia!-Cleveland bout started out as a stand-up fight before Cleveland managed to wrestle Fitia! to the ground. The next minute or so saw Cleveland dominate with a ground-and-pound game by punishing Fitia! with a number of elbow blows. While Cleveland clearly had control of the fight, announcers still gave kudos to Fitia!'s

"island warrior" mentality for not giving up.

At this time, blood was already visibly dripping from Fitia!'s nose but he still managed to escape being pinned on the canvas by Cleveland and then tried to engage him with several punches. He shadowed Cleveland into one of the corners and that's when the latter unleashed that devastating kick

that knocked out Fitia!.

The referee immediately stopped the fight after seeing Fitia! drop like a sack of rice and it would take a few minutes before the Marianas fighter regained consciousness. Upon seeing his downed opponent, Cleveland knelt beside him and appeared to have prayed and when he saw Fitia! wake up, he came up to him to make sure he was really OK.

**See FITIAL on Page 19**



In this 2019 file photo, Missile-toe's En Hong Pang, right, spikes the ball over All Set's Bryan Chlarson, left, and Jericho Castro during the second set of their title game in the Agape Christmas Volleyball Tournament held at the Agape Multipurpose Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

## 8 teams sign up BTS volleyball tourney

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

26 to 28 at the Agape Gymnasium along Middle Road in Gualo Rai.

Coordinator En Yang Pang said the eight teams are Skr Skr, New Kids on the Block, Old School, Ashes, Team Fresh Approach, Agape's Yang Gang, Noth-

**See 8 TEAMS on Page 19**



A total of eight teams have signed up for the Back-to-School Co-ed Volleyball Tournament set from Aug.